

BROWNSBURG
WEST MIDDLE
SCHOOL



BAND HANDBOOK
2023-2024



Dear BWMS Band Members and Parents,

Welcome back to an exciting year in the Brownsburg West 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 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:

Quizzes/written work	10%
Daily contribution points	20%
Assessment (playing tests)	35%
Performances (concerts)	35%

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.

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. 2023 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

August

14	BBOP Fall Fundraiser begins	
25	8th Grade Performs at Varsity Football Game	BHS Stadium
28	BBOP Fall Fundraiser orders and money due	

September

8	All-Region Honor Band Entry Deadline	
21	BBOP	7:30 PM BHS Band Room

October

30	BBOP Cheese/Sausage sale begins
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November

10	Junior All-State Band Entry Deadline		
11	IBA All-Region Honor Band		Zionsville West
12	IBA All-Region Honor Band Performance		Zionsville West
13	BBOP Cheese/Sausage orders and money due		
15	7th and 8th Grade Band Concert	7:30 PM	BHS Auditorium
16	8 th Grade St. Louis trip parent info meeting	7:00 PM	BEMS Cafeteria
16	BBOP	7:30 PM	BHS Band Room
January			
11-13	Junior All-State Band		Ft. Wayne
18	BBOP	7:30 PM	BHS Band Room
February			
3	ISSMA Solo/Ensemble Contest		Location TBD
6	Young Artist Solo Competition	7:00 PM	BWMS
10	Pendleton Jazz Festival		Pendleton Heights HS
March			
1	Jazz Finale Concert		BHS Auditorium
7	7th & 8th Grade Contest Concert	7:30 PM	BWMS Cafetorium
8 or 9	8th Grade ISSMA Contest Performance		Location TBD
21	BBOP	7:30 PM	BHS Band Room
May			
7	8 th Grade St. Louis rehearsal/chaperone mtg.	7:00 PM	BEMS Band Room
10	8 th Grade St. Louis trip		
11	8 th Grade St. Louis trip		
16	BBOP	7:30 PM	BHS Band Room
16	Pops Rehearsal (6th, 7th, 8th)	7:00 PM	Location TBD
18	7 th Grade King's Island trip		
19	Pops Festival (6th, 7th, 8th)	1:00 PM	Location TBD

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!!

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 or skirt (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. You can also follow Brownsburg West Bands on Twitter and Instagram: @bburgwestband. ParentSquare will be used for much of our communication this year.

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) 757fleet@gmail.com @BWMS
Oboe	Cameron Storey cestorey@butler.edu @BWMS Rebecca McGuire rlmcguire89@gmail.com
Bassoon	Emily Prochaska emily.bassoon@gmail.com Ntinyari Miriti nmiriti@butler.edu Candi Granlund (317-727-1275)
Clarinet	Sarah Alexander (515-943-9890) sarahdalexander@gmail.com @BWMS Kevy Bailey (765-238-9608) kevy.bailey@gmail.com
Sax	Sarah Alexander (515-943-9890) sarahdalexander@gmail.com @BWMS
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 @BWMS
Baritone	Josh Davis joshd2ba@gmail.com @BWMS Dan Wilhelm (317-697-2927) wilhel1dc@gmail.com @BWMS
Tuba	Josh Davis joshd2ba@gmail.com @BWMS Dan Wilhelm (317-697-2927) wilhel1dc@gmail.com @BWMS Melissa Williams (317-940-3055) mmwilli1@butler.edu
Percussion	Kyler Altenhof- kdaltenhof@gmail.com @BWMS Andrew Fortuna- andrewfortuna1.1@gmail.com @BWMS Chris Murphree- cmurph3268@gmail.com @BWMS Zach Schlicher- zschlicher@gmail.com @BWMS

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.



JAZZ BAND AND PEP BAND

Jazz Band and Pep Band information will be distributed close to 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.



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 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 YOUNG ARTIST CONTEST

Open to all 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 full scholarship (up to \$500) to a summer music camp.

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. **Please email Mrs. Cummings (ccummings@brownsburg.k12.in.us) or Ms. Vann (jvann@brownsburg.k12.in.us) before the scheduled performance if the absence is to be excused.** The BWMS 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 (ISS or OSS). See the Student Handbook section of the Student Passport 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 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 calendar for meeting dates).

FUNDRAISING

Each year the boosters sponsor several fundraising 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.



**BWMS Band Handbook
Acknowledgement of Receipt**

We hereby acknowledge that we have received a copy of the 2023 - 2024 BWMS 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. **2023 construction is impacting several campuses of BCSC, bold dates are tentative with more information to be communicated as we get closer to the event.**

8/25 – 8th Grade Performs at Varsity Football Game		BHS
11/15 – 7th & 8th Grade Band Concert	7:30 PM	BHS Auditorium
3/7 - 7th & 8th Grade Band Contest Concert	7:30 PM	BWMS Cafetorium
3/8 or 9 – 8th Grade ISSMA Contest Performance	TBA	Location TBD
5/16 – Band Pops Rehearsal (6th-12th)	7:00 PM	Location TBD
5/19 - Band Pops Festival (6th-12th)	1:00 PM	Location TBD

Student Name Printed

Student Signature

Parent Name Printed

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent Name Printed

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date _____ Grade _____

Period _____ P/W _____

Please return this form by Friday, August 11, 2023