

BRANDON MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

2017-2018



Directors:

**Tim Cagle
Michelle Green
Leigh Ann Ross
Chad Austin**

The bands of the Brandon Zone are poised to have an active and exciting school year. Together as teachers, parents, and students we will continue the tradition of excellence that our program is known for.

We want our band to represent the BEST aspects of our school and community. In order for us to be our best we all have to work together to perform at the highest level musically and personally. In the following pages you will find information and procedures that will help ensure our success. The Brandon Middle School Band handbook is meant to serve as a supplement to the Brandon Middle School Student handbook and provide a specific reference for both students and parents regarding policies and procedures specific to the band program..

Phone Numbers & Email Address

Middle School Front Office	601-825-5998
High School Front Office	601-825-2261

Each band director travels between the middle school and high school each day. The best method of communication is through email.

Tim Cagle	tim.cagle@rcsd.ms
Michelle Green	mgreen@rcsd.ms
Leigh Ann Ross	leighann.ross@rcsd.ms
Chad Austin	chad.austin@rcsd.ms

Classroom Rules

1. Follow instructions the first time they are given.
2. Horseplay is not acceptable.
3. Treat everyone with courtesy and respect.
4. Have all materials at the beginning of class.
5. Students are required to take their instrument home each day.
6. No food, gum, candy, or drinks allowed at anytime during band.
7. Book bags, non-band books, and non-band assignments are not allowed at the student's seat.
8. ONLY band students are allowed in the band area.

Band Members are expected to...

- Be successful through working TOGETHER.
- Take responsibility for your actions.
- Think before you act.
- Do not wait to be told the obvious.
- Make results, not excuses.
- Bring your best effort and attitude to class everyday.
- Practice daily to improve – becoming good is a process.

ATTENDANCE

MISSING BAND TIME

Being present for each band class and performances is VERY important. You as a student must make every effort to complete assignments and tests in academic classes on time and with your BEST effort. Students will only be allowed to miss band to go complete work in another class with permission from an administrator.

PERFORMANCES

Performances are required. Band is a PERFORMANCE based class. If everyone does not participate it is not an accurate representation of all of our hard work during class.

Excused Performance Absences:

- Personal Illness (requires a doctor's office excuse).
- Hospitalization or death in your immediate family.
- Plans made prior to August 6, 2017 (let us know well in advance).

Unexcused Performance Absences:

- Regular weekly meetings or practices (scouts, sports practice, piano lessons, etc.).
- Not having a ride to the performance (just ask, we are usually able to help find your child a ride with another parent).
- Oversleeping, forgetting, or any general mismanagement of time.

THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER IN THESE SITUATIONS IS: *COMMUNICATION*. If you let us know there is a legitimate problem we will make every effort to help you find a solution.

REQUIRED PERFORMANCES FOR ALL BAND MEMBERS

Please check 7th and 8th grade band pages for other specific performances for those groups.

- Band Night - BHS FOOTBALL STADIUM - Friday, October 20 (pregame performance with BHS band)
- Winter Concert - BHS MPR - Tuesday, November 28 @ 6:30 (student report time 6pm)
- Spring Concert - BHS MPR - Tuesday, April 24 @ 6:30 (student report time 6pm)

SUMMER BAND REQUIREMENTS

There are no required band events during the summer months for 6th and 7th grade band students. At the end of the 8th grade band year, members going into high school band must attend the BHS band camp in late July. We ask that all students practice daily during the summer months to maintain his or her playing skills. We also recommend the attendance of a local summer band camp if possible. **This is not to be confused with the BHS band camp.** Availability of these summer camps vary from year to year. The directors will provide information on these camps as they become available.

BAND GRADING

Daily Grades

Students will receive a 100 summative grade each semester for their participation in class every day. In order to participate they will need all of their materials. Ten points will be deducted each time the student does not have the proper materials.

Instrument/Mouthpiece/Sticks/Mallets
Method Book/Pass Off Book
Handouts/Worksheets/Sheet Music
Pencil

The director may also choose to assign written work for the student to complete during class for students who do not have an instrument.

Each student is responsible for taking his or her band instrument home each night. The band director may choose to assign instrument take home as part of the participation grade. We hope that this will encourage each student to practice each night but it is also a safety concern. The directors nor BMS administration can not be held responsible for instruments that could become lost, stolen, or damaged due to being left on school property overnight.

Instruments sent in for repair must have documentation from the repair shop in order to prevent a deduction in the daily grade or a writing assignment. ALWAYS CHECK WITH A DIRECTOR BEFORE SENDING IN YOUR INSTRUMENT FOR REPAIR. Many times, problems can be corrected by a director without a visit to the repair shop.

Tests

Students will be assigned both playing tests and written test throughout each 9 weeks. Playing test material will consist of scales, rudiments, exercises, and passages from sheet music. Written test material will consist of musical terms, symbols, and rhythm counting.

Performance Grades

Students will earn a grade of '100' for a performance by arriving on time, wearing the correct attire, bringing all performance materials, and remaining until the concert is over. Arriving late or departing early will result in a deduction of points from the performance grade. Students will receive a 'zero' for an unexcused absence from a performance.

Performance Uniform

In order to help provide a professional appearance at each performance ALL band students will be required to wear the following uniform. Students WILL NOT be allowed to perform out of uniform.

Band Night – Current band t-shirt and blue jeans
All Concerts – Current band t-shirt and khaki pants

BAND INSTRUMENT SELECTION

It is vitally important that each student be placed on a band instrument that suits he or she best. Sometimes our physical features actually help determine what we might be best suited for. All students selected for band will be given the opportunity to try each wind instrument prior to the start of 6th grade band. Each student will be asked to pick his or her top 3 instrument choices. Each student will be placed on an instrument from those 3 choices by the band staff that he or she tested best on. All students who wish to participate in the percussion class must start 6th grade band on a wind instrument. Students who wish to be in the percussion class will be given a percussion aptitude test one time in November of 6th grade band. Students selected for the percussion class will continue band in that class in January.

SWITCHING BAND INSTRUMENTS

Band students are expected to have no musical training or background prior to entering the 6th grade beginner band. From day one, the band directors teach the students everything needed to know to properly assemble, play, and maintain their instrument. In order to ensure that each student has the best opportunity for success in band, we do not allow random instrument changes. However, we do have students who switch to closely related instruments during 7th grade such as Trombone to Tuba OR Clarinet to Bass Clarinet. These instruments are closely related in many aspects such as hand position, embouchure, and finger patterns. Tryouts for these instruments are done in 7th grade for those current band students who are interested. Spots are very limited for these instruments. If a student wishes to play or learn a completely new instrument then we recommend trying that once they enter the high school band. We have several opportunities for this once the student has become proficient on the instrument they played in beginner band.

LATE ENROLLMENT IN BAND

Students who missed band enrollment for whatever reason and were not in 6th grade beginner band may be allowed to enter band late through one of two methods.

- 1.** Contact a BMS band director. Take instrument test on all wind instruments and percussion. Receive an instrument recommendation from the band director. Enroll in the 6th grade band class. In 6th grade band class the student will have the opportunity to learn the beginner skills he or she has missed. The student can also receive extra individual attention in hope of getting caught up. The student will be evaluated at the end of the year to determine band class for the following year.'
- 2.** Contact a BMS band director. Take instrument test on all wind instruments and percussion. Receive and instrument recommendation from the BMS band director. Take private lessons from a local specialist on that instrument to get caught up on the skills you have missed. Schedule an appointment to demonstrate the skills required for enrolling in your grades band class.

STUDENTS WHO MOVE TO BRANDON FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

Students who move into Brandon Middle School who and are currently participating in another band program may continue in the band program at BMS. This student must be in good standing with the band program at the previous school. Any student who moves into BMS will be given a playing assessment to place them in the proper pass-off book.

STUDENTS WHO CHOOSE NOT TO CONTINUE IN BAND

Band is like an academic course in that you need the skills learned from one year to advance to the next. For example, you would need to take English 1 before taking English 2. A student's best opportunity for success in band is to start in 6th grade band and continue band each year. A year or even several months of instructional time missed will cause the student to miss many essential skills needed in learning to play an instrument.

Any student who quits band WILL NOT be allowed to re enter the Brandon Band Program.

6th Grade Band Requirements

The **6th Grade Band** or beginner band provides the foundation for each student's experience in instrumental music. Beginner band students spend the majority of time learning and developing the basics. Each year the 6th grade band performs at band night, a winter concert, and a spring concert.

- ✓ Make a passing score on the music survey given in 5th grade.
- ✓ Attend the instrument testing fair to see what instrument best suits your physical attributes
- ✓ Obtain an instrument BEFORE the first day of school
- ✓ Pay 6th grade band fee of \$35.00
- ✓ Participate in all required 6th grade band performances: Band Night, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert.
- ✓ Practice AT LEAST 30 minutes each day
- ✓ Make consistent progress toward mastering the skills needed to complete the requirements in pass-off book 1
- ✓ All wind instruments must know concert Bb, Ab, F and chromatic scales 1 octave by the end of the 6th grade band year.
- ✓ All percussion students must know concert C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, G, D and chromatic scales full range of the student bell set by the end of the 6th grade band year.
- ✓ All percussion students must also know the 5 rudiments listed on rudiment page 1 of pass off book 1.

Required Materials

These materials will be checked daily.

FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS:

Instrument/Accessories (mouthpiece, sticks, ligature, reeds, etc.)

Sheet Music/Handouts

Pass-Off Book/Method Book

Pencil

- Flute – Cleaning rod & cloth
- Clarinet/Saxophone – 2 Rico Reeds in playing condition, Cork grease , Swab
- Trumpet/French Horn/Trombone - Valve oil , Slide oil (trombone) ,Chap Stick (for valve/tuning slides), Mouthpiece brush
- Percussion – Innovative Percussion FS2 Mallet Pack , Invader Practice Pad, Snare Drum Stand
Each percussion student must have a bell set for home practice.

7th Grade Band Requirements

The **7th Grade Band** provides a time to reinforce the fundamentals learned in beginner band while increasing technical demand. Each year, the 7th grade band performs at band night, The City of Brandon Christmas Parade, a winter concert, a local concert festival, and a Spring Concert.

- ✓ Have a passing Y1 average from 6th Grade band
- ✓ Have a working instrument before the 1st day of school
- ✓ Pay 7th grade band fee of \$60.00
- ✓ Participate in all required 7th grade band performances: Band Night, Winter Concert, Christmas Parade, Spring Concert, and Spring Contest.
- ✓ Practice AT LEAST 30 minutes each day
- ✓ Make consistent progress toward mastering the skills needed to complete the requirements in pass-off book 1
- ✓ All wind instruments must know Concert C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db and Chromatic Scale (Pg. 2) by the end of 7th grade year.
- ✓ All percussion students must know concert C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, G, D, A, E, B and chromatic scales full range of the student bell set by the end of the 7th grade band year.
- ✓ All percussion students must also know the 5 rudiments listed on rudiment page 1 of pass off book 1 open-closed-open. (Silver Level tempo on Vic Firth website)
- ✓ In order to be promoted to 8th Grade Band, students must have completed all requirements for Pass Off Book One (Scales, Tests, and Pass Off Lines) and have a passing Y1 average.

Required Materials

These materials will be checked daily.

FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS:

Instrument/Accessories (mouthpiece, sticks, ligature, reeds, etc.)

Sheet Music/Handouts

Pass-Off Book/Method Book

Pencil

- Flute – Cleaning rod & cloth
- Clarinet/Saxophone – 2 Vandoren Reeds in playing condition, Cork grease , Swab
- Trumpet/French Horn/Trombone/Baritone/Tuba - Valve oil , Slide oil (trombone) ,Chap Stick (for valve/tuning slides), Mouthpiece brush
- Percussion – Innovative Percussion FS2 Mallet Pack , Invader Practice Pad, Snare Drum Stand
Each percussion student must have a bell set for home practice.

8th Grade Band Requirements

The **8th Grade Band** serves as the premier instrumental music ensemble at Brandon Middle School. During the third year of instruction the students are preparing for entrance into the high school band while continuing to add technical demand to the fundamentals learned in the first two years of instruction. Each year the 8th grade band students perform at pep rallies, various 8th grade football games, band night, the City of Brandon Christmas Parade, a winter concert, a local concert festival and a Spring Concert.

- ✓ Have a passing Y1 average from 7th Grade
- ✓ Have a working instrument before the 1st day of school
- ✓ Pay 8th grade band fee of \$60.00
- ✓ Participate in all required 8th grade band performances: Band Night, Assigned 8th grade Pep Rallies and Games, Christmas Parade, Winter Concert, Spring Concert, and Spring Contest.
- ✓ Make consistent progress toward mastering the skills needed to complete the requirements in pass-off book 2
- ✓ Practice AT LEAST 30 minutes each day
- ✓ All wind instruments must know Concert C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, G (2 octaves as assigned) and Chromatic Scale (extended/full range) by the end of 8th grade year.
- ✓ All percussion students must know concert C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, G, D, A, E, B and chromatic scales full range of the student bell set by the end of the 8th grade band year.
- ✓ All percussion students must also know the 5 rudiments listed on rudiment page 1 of pass off book 1 open-closed-open. (Gold Level Tempo on Vic Firth website)
- ✓ In order to be promoted to High School Band, students must have completed all requirements for Pass Off Book Two (Scales, Tests, and Pass Off Lines) and have a passing Y1 average.

Required Materials

These materials will be checked daily.

FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS:

Instrument/Accessories (mouthpiece, sticks, ligature, reeds, etc.)

Sheet Music/Handouts

Pass-Off Book/Method Book

Pencil

- Flute – Cleaning rod & cloth
 - Clarinet/Saxophone – 2 Vandoren Reeds in playing condition, Cork grease , Swab
 - Trumpet/French Horn/Trombone/Baritone/Tuba- Valve oil , Slide oil (trombone) ,Chap Stick (for valve/tuning slides), Mouthpiece brush
 - Percussion – Innovative Percussion FS2 Mallet Pack , Invader Practice Pad, Snare Drum Stand
- Each percussion student must have a bell set for home practice.**

RCSD RANDOM DRUG TESTING POLICY

Students who participate in any extra curricular activity in the Rankin County School District are required to complete the RCSD random drug testing consent form. An outside firm hired by the school district does any random drug testing that occurs. Students who are tested are selected randomly, and the band directors nor the BMS administration have any prior knowledge regarding the students who are selected. Students selected for testing are done randomly, and not based on suspicion of usage. Students may not participate in any extra curricular activity without a signed testing form turned in by a specific date set by the Rankin County School District.

BAND IS A PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Band requires a great deal of movement and physical activity. It may not seem like it, but just sitting and playing a wind instrument can be strenuous at times. Sometimes, even middle school band requires us to be outside in the heat and elements. Any students who participate in band are encouraged but not required to get a physical. Always be sure to let the directors know of any medical issues you may have that could limit your participation in band. The directors will notify students and parents of any outside activities in advance.

DISMISSAL FROM THE BAND PROGRAM

Being in the band program is a privilege. If at any point during the course of the school year it becomes necessary, then a student may be dismissed from the Middle School Band Program. Reasons for dismissal will almost always involve an extreme case where the student has proven a danger or liability to those around them or the Rankin County School District itself. Reasons for Dismissal Include:

- **Theft:** Theft of any personal or school owned item will absolutely not be tolerated in the Brandon Band Program. If a student is caught stealing any instruments, money, or any other valuable item, then a director will request for immediate dismissal from the band program.
- **Fighting:** We ask that all of our students in the band not participate in fighting in any way. Should a fight break out between students during the middle of a band rehearsal or band related function then it is at the director's discretion to request dismissal from the band program.
- **Alcohol/Drug Use:** Any student found in the possession or consumption of Alcohol and/or drugs will immediately be removed from the band and reported to the appropriate administration. All actions following this violation will follow the Rankin County School District Policy Handbook.
- **Sexual Misconduct:** Any form of sexual harassment or sexual misconduct will not be tolerated in the band. Any student found engaging in any such activity shall be removed from the band and reported to the administration for further disciplinary action.

Any Student that is removed from the band program may not be allowed to re-enter without consent of the Band Director.

BAND FEES

A participation fee is required to participate in band each year. The fee will vary from year to year based on the students' needs for that year. Band fees help pay for the following items:

- Band T-Shirt
- Flip Folders
- Music
- Equipment Maintenance

2017-2018 BAND FEES

6th grade band - \$35.00

7th grade band - \$60.00

8th grade band - \$60.00

All Fees are due by September 8, 2017

The band covers many costs on behalf of the students in advance. There can be no refunds on the basis of academic ineligibility or change of schedule. Please plan well in advance.

Parents of any student unable to meet the financial obligation to be in band please contact your child's director before fees are due.

6th grade band – Mr. Austin (chad.austin@rcsd.ms)

7th grade band – Ms. Ross (leighann.ross@rcsd.ms)

8th grade band – Mrs. Green (mgreen@rcsd.ms)

FUNDRAISING

Having a successful band program requires a great deal of financial support. Several times throughout the school year we will have fundraisers to help raise funds for our band program. Fundraisers help pay for things like chairs, music stands, and the larger more expensive school owned instruments. All band students are expected to participate in fundraisers.

Student/Parent Agreement/Info Sheet

I have read and understand the Rules and Procedures contained in the Brandon Middle School Band Handbook. I understand that by signing this document that I/my child agrees to follow the guidelines this document outlines.

Parent Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Email 1 (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Email 2 (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Phone 1 _____

Parent/Guardian Phone 2 _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Student Name (print) _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Return this signed page by Thursday, August 10, or Friday, August 11, 2017.