

Mission Statement

Through our participation in Band, we will...

Grow in our appreciation and knowledge of music and develop our musicianship skills to become the best musicians we can be.

Promote personal development of band members, including areas of citizenship, leadership, and self-esteem.

Represent ourselves, our school, and our community in a very positive way by holding to the highest of musical and personal standards.

All BMS Band policies are based on this mission statement.

Communication

Parents should feel free to contact Mr. Carter or Mr. Campbell should they have any questions or concerns regarding their child's band experience.

Telephone & voicemail: David Campbell (770) 904-3690 ext. 2123

Kenyon Carter (770) 904-3690 ext 2122

BMS Fax (770) 904-3689

E-mail: HYPERLINK

"mailto:david.campbell@bufordcityschools.org" david.campbell@bufordcityschools.org

kenyon.carter@bufordcityschools.org

Being Prepared

Students should have the following in all classes and rehearsals:

BMS Agenda

A quality instrument in good playing condition.

An easily readable name tag on the outside of the instrument case.

A thin three-ring binder with your name on the outside that contains:

ALL issued music, graphic organizers, handouts, etc.

Method book

6th Grade – Essential Elements 2000, Book One

7th Grade – Essential Elements 2000, Book Two

8th Grade – Essential Technique 2000

10+ sheets of notebook paper

At least one pencil (not pen)

THE BAND BINDER IS FOR BAND MATERIALS ONLY. It is not a place for homework, handouts, etc. from other classes.

(Being Prepared, continued)

A NOTE ABOUT MUSIC: Successful musicians are *very cautious* when it comes to keeping up with their music. Music is to be kept *neatly* in the band binder. Each band member is responsible for having his or her own copy of the music. If they do not have music, they should see the director. Band members never share music unless asked to do so by the director.

Accessories

FLUTES: Handkerchief (to be carried outside the case), tuning rod
DOUBLE REEDS: Swab, two good reeds, cork grease, reed guard
SINGLE REEDS: Three good reeds, swab, ligature, reed guard, cork grease, high quality mouthpiece.
BRASS: Oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake, high quality mouthpiece.
PERCUSSION: “2-B” or “SD1” snare drum sticks, bell mallets, tunable practice pad with stand, 2 ½ octave bells with stand

Percussionists are strongly encouraged to have a stick bag and begin a collection of sticks and mallets. The following is a list of recommended supplies to be kept in the stick bag:

Pencil (required), “2B” or “SD1” snare drum sticks (required), Medium rubber mallets (HIGHLY recommended), drum key, metronome, “7A” or similar “drum set” sticks (if you plan on playing the school drum set), yarn mallets, medium timpani mallets, hard rubber mallets, brushes

Reeds, reed guards, swabs, oil, and grease are sold in the media center.

ALL Band members should have a music stand at home. Wire music stands are suggested, because they are both affordable and portable.

It is highly recommended that Band members have a metronome at home. Prices range from \$15 and up. These are available from local music stores.

Grading Policy

Band grades are calculated in the following manner:

- Daily Grade (40 %)
- Concert Grade (15%)
- Playing Evaluations (20%)
- Theory/Written Assignments (15%)
- Practice Record (10%)

Daily Grade

Daily Grades are based on students having the required materials in class and participating satisfactorily in class.

Concert Grade

Concert Grades are based on participation in public performances and after-school rehearsals. Performing is the most fundamental part of band. There will be about one public performance per grading period, and after-school rehearsals will be scheduled only as needed.

Playing Evaluations

Band members have homework everyday – practicing their instrument. Students will be graded on how well they perform assigned material.

Theory/Written Assignments

Music is a VERY academic subject. To be successful, musicians must have an understanding of the fundamentals of music. This is often taught and evaluated through written tests and assignments.

Practice Record

A record of home practice is kept in the front of the Essentials book and must be initialed by a parent each weekend.

Students receive one point per minute practiced, with a maximum of 120 awarded per week. Though 120 points is the maximum amount of credit, 120 minutes per week should be considered the “minimum” amount of practice time per week.

A maximum of 40 minutes may be recorded per day. This is to encourage students to practice several times each week, instead of “cramming” it into one or two days.

Star Musician Program

The Star Musician Program was designed to
Encourage excellence in musicianship.
Recognize students who consistently strive for excellence.

To be recognized as a Bronze Star Musician, band members must meet the following criteria:
Satisfactorily complete ALL playing assignments for the entire school year.
Attend ALL required performances and rehearsals.
Have “straight A’s” in Band for the year.
Have no outstanding debts to BMS Band.
Eighth Grade Only – Must audition for GMEA District Honor Band.

To be recognized as a Silver Star Musician, band members must meet the above criteria for two consecutive years.

To be recognized as a Gold Star Musician, band members must meet the above criteria for all three years of middle school band.

Uniforms

Unless otherwise announced, the BMS uniform will be worn at all concerts outside the school day. Care should be taken, so that band members have a neat and “dressy” appearance. The uniform consists of:

BMS Band shirt (may be purchased from BMS Band for \$17.)

If a shirt is worn underneath the band shirt, it must be:

Short sleeve (It must not show) OR

“V” neck or tank top (It must not show) OR

Black and short-sleeved

Khaki *dress* pants.

The following are NOT appropriate:

Khaki jeans

Shorts

Baggy pants

Pants with pockets on the side of the legs (cargo pockets)

Capris

Corduroy

Solid plain black belt – leather or simulated leather

Solid black socks

Solid black *dress* shoes - No athletic shoes are to be worn.

Jewelry should be minimal.

The following are NOT appropriate:

Necklaces of any kind that are not completely hidden.

Bracelets

Large earrings

Attendance

Other than regular home practice, after-school commitments are kept to a minimum. Therefore when events are scheduled, all band members are expected to participate. Please note the following policies:

Band members are expected to attend and be on time for all required events.

Band is co-curricular. In other words, required events outside the school day influence students' grades.

Students will be excused for personal illness with a note from a parent. Other situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

If a band member will be unable to attend an after-school event, parents should contact the band director well in advance.

If advance notice is not possible, a parent should contact the director as soon as possible.

School personnel will make every attempt to avoid conflicts between school activities.

THERE ARE NO AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, OR SPORTS THAT CONFLICT WITH BAND AND WILL PREVENT A STUDENT FROM PARTICIPATING IN BAND. However, it is the student's responsibility to... attempt to resolve any conflicts.

make the band director aware of conflicts unable to be resolved (well in advance).

Home Practice

Regular home practice is essential to *any* musician's success, whether they are a beginning band member, play in a professional orchestra, or even become a famous rock star.

Here are some guidelines:

Try to practice EVERYDAY.

On extra busy days or even when on vacation, just five minutes of practice will be MUCH better than none at all.

Twenty to thirty minutes a day is a suitable goal, however...

Accomplished musicians practice much more than this.

Focus on results not just putting in the time.

Set small goals for each practice session.

Find a regular time and place for practicing, free of distractions. Make it a part of your daily routine.

Play everything "musically." Even scales can be played in a beautiful manner.

Remember the fundamentals (posture, embouchure, breathing, hand position, etc.)

Always review what is played in class – This is automatically your daily homework.

Find a private teacher and be faithful in mastering their assignments.

Play occasionally for family members and friends. This is fun for everyone, especially during the Holidays.

End each session with something *just for fun!*

Storing of Instruments During School

Students will be allowed to store instruments in the instrument storage room during school, but this is not intended for overnight storage. Each band member will be assigned a cubicle for their instrument. They will be expected to keep the cubicle neat and free of trash. Band members must have a suitable name tag on the outside of their instrument case. Otherwise, they will not be assigned a cubicle and will not be permitted to store their instrument in the instrument storage room.

School-owned Instruments

Due to the expense of certain instruments, some are traditionally owned by the school and rented to students. The cost of renting a school-owned instrument is twenty-five dollars for the school year and twenty-five dollars for the summer.

Both students and parents are encouraged to carefully read the rental agreement. The rental agreement requires, among other things, that the student pay for any damages to the instrument other than normal wear and tear.

Private Teachers

Though it is not mandatory that students take private lessons, working with a quality private teacher often provides the motivation and specialized instruction that make great musicians great. We are fortunate to live in an area with many outstanding professional musicians and teachers. The Buford Band staff is dedicated to providing students with individualized instruction, but there is still no substitute for a private teacher. See Mr. Campbell, if you would like help in finding a quality private teacher.

Replacing Lost or Damaged Music and Books

Should a student need to replace a piece of sheet music, they should have their parents sign a note explaining that the music has been lost or damaged.

Replacing books that belong to the student will be the responsibility of the student.

School-owned books that are lost or damaged will be replaced at the student's expense.

Marching Band

With the band director's recommendation, Eighth Grade Band members are eligible to participate in the Buford High School Marching Band of Wolves. Marching Band is structured in a way that does not conflict with any middle school band activities.

BMS Jazz Band

The BMS Jazz Band is made up of seventh and eighth grade band members who are Star Musicians during the previous school year. Sixth Grade Band members who complete the Star Musician requirements during the first semester may join Jazz Band for second semester. The Jazz Band rehearses during the school day, however there will usually be a few after school rehearsals and performances throughout the school year.

Parent Chaperones

To help insure the safety and well-being of our students, it is Buford City School policy that any adult who chaperones a field trip must first be approved. To be approved, one must be finger-printed and complete a criminal background check. For more information go to HYPERLINK "<http://www.bufordcityschools.org>" www.bufordcityschools.org and follow the links: HYPERLINK "<http://www.bufordcityschools.org/documents/Fingerprintingproceduresfeb2008.pdf>" Fingerprinting Procedures and HYPERLINK "<http://www.bufordcityschools.org/documents/FINGERPRINTREGISTRATIONFORMFeb08.pdf>" Fingerprinting Registration Form. HYPERLINK "<http://www.bufordcityschools.org/documents/FingerprintingformFeb2008.pdf>"

Complete this page and return to Mr. Campbell or Mr. Carter.

Band Member: _____ , _____
Last Name First Name

Handbook Agreement

Band Members and Parents,

Thank you for taking the time to review our handbook. Having policies and procedures in place will help things run smoothly. After you have reviewed the BMS Band Handbook please complete, sign, and return this page for our files.

We ask that band members keep their handbooks in their band binders, as we will refer to it from time to time.

Thank you,

David Campbell
BMS Band Director

Kenyon Carter
BMS Band Director

We have reviewed the BMS Band Handbook and agree to abide by its policies and procedures.

Parent's Signature

Date

Member's Signature

Date

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Buford Middle School Band Handbook