

## 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 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. Campbell should they have any questions or concerns regarding their child's band experience.

Telephone & voicemail: David Campbell (770) 904-3690 ext. 2123  
BMS Fax (770) 904-3689  
E-mail: [david.campbell@bufordcityschools.org](mailto:david.campbell@bufordcityschools.org)

## Classroom Rules and Procedures

- Band members are expected to be still, quiet and attentive, when the director is on the podium or is speaking to the class.
- Band members should be seated and ready to rehearse at the appointed time.
- No food, gum or candy is permitted in the band room.
- Band members are not to enter side rooms (workroom, office, library, etc.) without permission.
- Band members *are* permitted to go into the instrument storage room to get their instrument or to return their instrument at the appropriate times. However, they are not to loiter or socialize in this room, but rather spend minimal time in this room.
- When class is dismissed, all band members are expected to straighten their chairs and stands and pickup any trash in their area.
- Band members are expected to abide by all policies and procedures in the BMS Band Handbook.

## 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
    - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – *Essential Elements 2000*, Book One (Beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> Term)
    - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – *Essential Elements 2000*, Books One & Two
    - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – *Essential Elements 2000*, Book Two AND *Foundations for Superior Performance* (second semester)
  - 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.

*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 tell 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:	“Vic Firth SD1” snare drum sticks, tunable practice pad, medium rubber keyboard mallets, keyboard instrument for home practice, stick bag with name on it.

### **Media Center Store**

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.

**It is advantageous for students with internet access at home to have the SmartMusic computer program.** (See “SmartMusic” on page 6.)

## Grading Policy

Band grades are calculated in the following manner:

- Daily Grade (30 %)
- Concert Grade (20%)
- Playing Evaluations (20%)
- Theory/Written Assignments (15%)
- Practice Records (15%)

### 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 a 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

Students will be graded on how well they perform assigned material. Any material played in class is automatically considered an assignment.

### 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, interactive computer software or websites, and written assignments.

### Practice Records

Band members have homework everyday – practicing their instrument. Each week, band members will have practice records signed by a parent and turn them in every Monday. The weekly Practice Record grade will be the number of minutes practiced AT HOME for that week (100 minutes = a grade of 100). Please note that 100 minutes is a *minimum*. Students who wish to excel on their instrument will need to practice much more.

## Star Musician Program

The Star Musician Program was designed to

1. Encourage excellence in musicianship.
2. Recognize students who consistently strive for excellence.

To be recognized as a 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.

Bronze State – Sixth Grade

Silver Star – Seventh Grade

Gold Star – Eighth Grade

## 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 fingerprinted and complete a criminal background check. For more information go to <http://www.bufordcityschools.org/parentinformation/parentinformation.htm>, or go to [www.bufordcityschools.org](http://www.bufordcityschools.org), click on “Parent Portal,” then choose Fingerprinting Procedures and Fingerprinting Registration Form.

## Uniform

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...
  1. attempt to resolve any conflicts.
  2. 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. Home practice is part of Buford Band members' grades (see "Grading Policy" on page 3)

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!*
- Last BUT NOT LEAST, use SmartMusic!

## SmartMusic

SmartMusic is an interactive computer program that will greatly enhance your musical experience. SmartMusic will:

- Allow you to pass-off at home. You'll have as many chances as you like!
- Provide musical accompaniment to assignments.
- Show you fingerings when you "click" on any note.
- Allow you to record yourself. You can listen to yourself and email the recording to anyone.
- Create an online practice log.
- Download thousands of pieces of music, rhythm studies, scale studies, and jazz improvisation studies.
- Plus much more.

Most Playing Evaluations (see "Grading Policy" on page 3) will be taken using SmartMusic. It is very advantageous for students to have SmartMusic at home. To learn more about SmartMusic or to order the program, go to <http://www.smartmusic.com/>. All students will need an email address (parent's email is preferred) and a password to use SmartMusic. If you do not have an email address, there are free email accounts available at [www.gmail.com](http://www.gmail.com), [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com), [www.hotmail.com](http://www.hotmail.com), among other sites.

## 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.

**Student Pick-Up**

Following after-school band activities at BMS, parents should pick up their children in the bus lanes near the auditorium loading dock. Band members are not to leave this area until their parents arrive.

**Complete this page and return THE ENTIRE PAGE to Mr. Campbell.**

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.

Thank you,

David Campbell  
BMS Band Director

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Email Address for Communication 2<sup>nd</sup> Email (optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address for SmartMusic (Mandatory. See page six of handbook.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Instrument Serial Number (Beginning 6<sup>th</sup> graders leave blank.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Band Member's Signature Date