

Brazos Middle School Band Syllabus

2023-2024 School Year

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Course Description:

During the 2023-2024 school year, BMS will have three band classes, one for each grade level.

This course is designed to give the student an enriching and diverse instrumental music education. This class provides a number of performance opportunities for the student in a variety of settings. The daily objective of the course is to foster and promote musical growth through the playing of an instrument by the student. As a member of the band program, group effort and cooperation is necessary to a successful program. Band is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout this course.

6th Grade Band will be the introduction to band. Students will learn the basics of reading music, instrumentation and group performance. Throughout the course of the school year, students will perform in unison, leading to a concert in the fall and spring.

7th Grade Band students will build upon the basic knowledge acquired during the students' first year of band. Music, instrumentation and speed will be more advanced, as the students continue to grow.

8th Grade Band students will continue to build on the first two years of band and continue to learn more advanced music in preparation for high school.

Required Materials:

- Pencil
- Music
- Instrument
- Any necessary supplies

Grading:

Grades for band classes will be based on Homework, Participation, Quizzes, Performances, and Tests.

Homework Grades: Homework grades will be worth 20%. This will be practice records and any other assignments we send home with the students.

Daily Grades: Daily grades will be worth 20%. Students will be graded on rehearsal etiquette and participation each week. If a student is prepared, on time, actively participates, and follows classroom rules and school policy, they will receive the full 100 points. Failure to do so will result in loss of points to the Participation Grade.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be worth 25%. They can be performance-based (frequent) or written (infrequent) and will take place during class.

Performances and Tests: Any performance or test the students do will be worth 35% of their grade. To earn full points for performances, students must be in attendance, on time, and actively participate (this includes all pep rallies and concerts). Playing tests will occur three times a six weeks and will require your student to practice. Written tests are infrequent, however they can greatly impact a student's grade if they are not prepared.

Classroom Rules:

- No food in band hall unless having a meal as a group
- No gum, candy, soft drinks, or ear buds in the band hall. Only water bottles are allowed
- Be on time
- Be prepared with all necessary things: including a pencil!
- Respect people and this band hall at all times

Observe all other rules during school year in band hall, including the ones in school handbook

Attendance:

Your attendance for class and performances has a direct effect on your grade. Band is a participation/performance based course. Attendance is mandatory to all rehearsals and performances unless otherwise noted. Absences may be excused under extenuating circumstances.

Excused Absences Include:

- Extreme personal illness with doctor's note (or absence from school)
- Family health emergencies verified by family via email
- Approved academic conflicts
- Required religious observances (with notice)
- Extra-Curricular school conflicts approved by a director in advance

Again, communication with the director is crucial when an absence is known. The director should know about any conflicts at least ONE week prior to the event in question. The best method of communication would be via email or through phone contact, preferably by the parent or guardian of the student. Absences that are excused will be subject to make-up assignment.

Note: Even if the director is informed about the conflict with ample time, it does not guarantee that the absence will be approved.

Sectionals:

This year the 7th and 8th Grade Band will have morning sectionals each week. Students will be required to attend during their specified day and time. If a student misses their sectional time they may make it up by attending a different sectional during the same week. Sectionals will be from 7:30-7:55 Monday through Friday with the schedule below.

Mondays: Flutes

Tuesdays: Clarinet and Saxophones

Wednesday: Trumpet and Horns

Thursday: Low Brass

Friday: Percussion

Performance Guidelines:

- Be early for report times.
- Come prepared physically and mentally.
- Have equipment and/or materials ready to go before report time.
- Wear the appropriate attire according to the BMS Band Handbook and director's instructions.

Important Dates and Events:

Students will be notified of important dates, weeks in advance, with the expectation that participation will occur.

- MS All Region Band Auditions- Saturday, December 2, 2023/ Stafford
- MS All Region Band Clinic and Concert- Saturday, January 27, 2024/ Needville
- MS UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest- ?
- UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest- March of 2024

***All dates and events are subject to change and will be posted on the district calendar.**

Please detach below section and return to director.

I have read the course syllabus for the Brazos Middle School Band, and understand the expectations and guidelines of the class. I am also aware of the scheduled practice and performance dates throughout the school year.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent /Guardian Signature: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____