

# Brazos Middle School Band Syllabus

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Welcome to the Brazos Middle School Band program! We are so excited to be working with your students, and are looking forward to an exciting year of music-making!

## Contact Information:

The fastest way to reach us is via Remind or email. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

### Remind:

Beginning Band: @brazosbb  
Concert Band: @brazoscb  
Symphonic Band: @brazossb

## Course Description:

Band is designed to give students an enriching and diverse instrumental music education. This class provides a number of performance opportunities for the student in a variety of musical settings. The daily objective of the course is to foster and promote musical and personal growth through both playing an instrument and working as a team with their fellow bandmates. 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 the course.

### Beginning Band:

This course is for 6th grade students and is an introduction to band. Students in Beginner Band will learn to control and maintain a good characteristic tone on their instruments, maintain a steady pulse within a musical meter, and will demonstrate accurate rhythmic proficiency for both notes and rests. Students will also develop appropriate instrument fundamentals, correct playing posture and hand position, and will also exhibit appropriate etiquette during rehearsals and performances.

### Concert and Symphonic Band:

7th graders are placed in Concert Band, and 8th grade students are placed in Symphonic Band. Students in the upper bands will build on the skills and knowledge that were acquired during their time in Beginning Band. These students will play more advanced music and have more performance opportunities as they develop into more talented musicians.

### **Supply List:**

Students will use these materials daily in class.

- Pencils
- Black 1" Binder with pockets, clear cover and hard back
- 3 ring pencil pouch (this will stay in the band binder)
- Beginning Band Additional Supplies:
  - \$12 for purchase of band method book
  - **BEGINNING PERCUSSION ONLY:** Vic Firth EP2 Intermediate Percussion Education Pack (can be found at music stores or online)
- Concert Band Additional Supplies:
  - *Habit of a Successful Beginner Band Musician* for YOUR instrument.
- Symphonic Band does not need any additional supplies.

### **Grading:**

While grades are not the only indication of the amount of growth and learning that has taken place, they are an effective way to measure student progress in the band room. Grades in this class will be based on participation, daily grades, quizzes, attendance, major assessments, and performances.

Weekly Rehearsal Grades, Daily Work, Practice Reflections: 60%

Major Assessments and Performances: 40%

Rehearsal Grades: There is no "sitting on the bench" in band! Every person is important! Students will receive 100 points per week for participation in rehearsals. In order to receive full credit for participation, students must have all required materials (instrument, music, pencil, and all other required materials) ready when class starts, be engaged during instruction, give their best effort, and demonstrate proper rehearsal etiquette. **Students will not be allowed to bring anything except water into the band hall- no food, drinks, snacks, gum, etc.**

### Daily Work, and Major Assessments:

In order to effectively perform music literature, every student is expected to learn the material presented in class. In order to assess this, daily work may be given. This includes worksheets, recordings, any work sent home to complete, quizzes, and

playing tests. Major assessments will be similar to daily grades but will be weighted as a major grade. Playing tests will only be given as needed to assure the music was practiced and mastered.

Performances: We will have up to three concerts a year. These concerts are why we are here so it's essential that everyone makes it to the concert. If you know there will be a conflict with a concert date, please contact me and let me know as soon as possible. Alternate assignments will only be given if there is an excused absence for that school day. Symphonic Band will also perform at Middle School night at the last home football game and will be considered test grades.

Attendance refers to any activity that the director has deemed required. This includes sectionals, performances, and any required rehearsals that occur outside of the school day.

#### Practice Reflections:

All band students are expected to take their instruments home on a regular basis, and a portion of each six weeks grade will be determined by submissions of a practice reflection. Students will set a goal each week, and are required to submit a short video on Google Classroom showing their progress. These reflections will be due on Mondays, and if they are not submitted they will be subject to the late work policy listed in the student handbook.

#### **Classroom Expectations:**

- Arrive to class on time. After the tardy bell rings you have 1 minute to be seated with your instrument.
- No gum, candy, or beverages in the classroom. Water bottles only.
- Be prepared with your instrument, music, and pencil every day.
- Respect the people, equipment, and furnishings of the band room at all times,
- Observe all rules in the student handbook.
- Try your best all the time!

Students choosing not to follow expectations will receive the following consequences:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Parent Contact
3. Administrative Referral

**Attendance:**

Band is collaborative by design and a performance based course- every part in the ensemble is vital to the performance! . Attendance to all rehearsals and performances are **MANDATORY** 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. Per the band handbook, the director should be notified of any conflicts at least TWO WEEKS prior to the event in question. This needs to be done via email or Remind, preferably by the parent or guardian of the student. Absences that are excused will be subject to a make-up assignment.

**Note: Even if a director is informed of a conflict with ample time, it does not mean that the absence will be approved.**

**Sectionals:**

Depending on the semester, Symphonic Band and/or Concert Band members will have morning sectionals during the week. Students will be required to attend during their specified day and time. If a student misses their sectional time they will need to make it up. Sectionals will be from 7:30-7:55 Monday through Friday with the schedule below:

**Fall Semester (Required by all Symphonic Band Members, highly encouraged for Concert Band):**

Monday: Clarinets

Tuesday: Flutes

Wednesday: Saxophones

Thursday: Brass

Friday: Percussion

**Spring Semester (required by all Symphonic and Concert Band Members):**

Monday: Concert Band High Winds

Tuesday: Concert Band Lows/Perc.

Wednesday: Symphonic Band High Winds

Thursday: Symphonic Band Lows/Perc.

## **Performances:**

Performances and preparing for them are a large part of the learning experience for band students of any level. This is where students learn proper audience etiquette and show off all the results of all of their hard work during the semester. Again, these events are **REQUIRED TO ATTEND**. Please see the attendance policy in the syllabus or band handbook if your student will not be able to make it. Every student is an important part of the ensemble, and the music does not sound the same when students are not all in attendance. Students will be **required** to stay for the **duration of the concert** in order to support all members of the band program.

### 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 uniform according to the BMS Band Handbook and the director's instructions.
- Stay for the duration of all performances at the event.

## **Helpful Hints for Parents:**

Learning to play a musical instrument is a three-way partnership composed of the teacher, the student, and the parents. Most parents are eager to be active participants in this endeavor, but often are at a loss when it comes to guiding their children in developing meaningful practice habits. When it comes to assuring your child's success in band or speeding progress in reaching musical goals, there is no single factor more important than a parent's sincere, active interest in their child's musical experience. As your child advances in his or her study of music, and as he or she is presented with increasingly challenging material, the regularity and quality of home practice becomes critical. Some of the specific things you can do to assist your child are listed below.

- Set aside a regular time and a regular place to practice. A practice area free from distraction and with the proper materials (music stand, a chair that promotes good playing posture, etc.) is very important.
- Help your child keep track of the progress of their goals.
- Praise your child for his or her hard work. An encouraging remark made during practice time or a compliment at dinner time can reap large rewards.
- Attend all concerts and performances and ask friends and relatives to attend also. Young musicians are more successful in the activities in which their parents show a genuine interest.
- Talk to your child about what he or she learned today in band class. Being interested and actively involved in your child's progress is a necessity.



# BMS Band Calendar

2025-2026

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Event:</b>	<b>Members Involved:</b>	<b>Location:</b>
December 12th, 2025	MS All Region Auditions*	Symphonic Band	Stafford
January 24th, 2026	MS All Region Band Clinic/Concert*	Symphonic Band*	Needville
February 6-7th, 2026	MS/HS Band Solo & Ensemble Contest*	Symphonic/Concert Band*	Edna
April 1st-2nd, 2026	MS UIL Concert & Sightreading Contest	Symphonic Band	Brazosport

\*Only select students will be taken to this event

Days for the following events will be announced as soon as information is available:

December 2025:	Brazos ISD Christmas Concert	All Band Members	Brazos HS
May 2026:	Brazos ISD Spring Concert:	All Band Members	Brazos HS
May 2026	Beginning Band Concert Festival	Beginning Band	Yoakum





## Please Fill Out and Return This Page:

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

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Parent/Guardian #1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian #2:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_