



HANDBOOK

Angie Nabower, Director (6th Grade): anabower@bennps.org

Chaz Fonda, Director (7th/8th Grade): cfonda@bennps.org

Band Website: www.badgerbands.org

Welcome to the Bennington Middle School Band Program! We are excited to have you as a member of our band family! It is our sincerest hope that this year will be fun, productive, and successful.

BY THE END OF THE YEAR WE WILL:

- Improve upon our ensemble skills
- Expand the range on our instruments
- Advance our knowledge on rhythms
- Enhance our knowledge of musical terms and symbols
- Enjoy making music with our peers!

IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN BAND, YOU MUST:

- Have respect for yourself and others.
- Be on time.
- Be responsible for having your instrument, music, and supplies with you every day.
- Participate and use ALL of rehearsal time to the best of your ability.
- Use good posture
- LEARN YOUR PART!
- Respect the band room and all it's equipment.
- Have fun while playing!

CONCERTS

Concerts are part of the band experience and serve as a major form of assessment for this class. Attendance is mandatory and students are expected to stay for the entire performance. Absences are permitted only in the event of personal illness, weddings, and funerals in the immediate family or unavoidable emergencies. Students and parents should inform the music teacher of any conflicts prior to the performance. If a student misses a performance, they will be required to perform their concert music for an approved audience. Excused absences can earn full credit, unexcused absences can earn partial credit.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Concert attire for middle school band students will consist of a Bennington Middle School Band polo with all-black pants, capris, skirts, shoes and socks. Band polos will be available for 6th grade members and new students to purchase later in the semester.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADES IN BAND

Grades in band will be comprised of both formative and summative assessments. Formative assessments may be retaken until the end of the semester. Summative assessments cannot be retaken. These assessments allow students, teachers, and parents to know what areas the student is exemplary, proficient, progressing, and basic.

Formative:

- Music Checks
- Theory Checks

Summative:

- Playing Tests
- Written Tests
- Performances and written reflections

SCHOOL INSTRUMENT POLICY

The school has an inventory of specialty instruments that are too costly for most families to purchase, but are necessary for a balanced band, such as the tuba, baritone, bass clarinet, tenor sax, bari sax, and double horn. These instruments may be loaned out to students at the discretion of the band director. Students are responsible for providing the needed supplies to keep the instrument in good condition. Should the instrument become damaged, students are expected to contact a band director immediately. It will be their responsibility to pay for the repairs and it will be assessed each quarter.

ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES

The band office will not act as a music store. A hand-full of items are kept in the office for emergencies only. It is the student's responsibility to purchase needed items to keep their instrument in proper working order. All of the local music stores carry maintenance kits, reeds, oils, grease, polish cloths, swabs, etc. This applies to school-owned instruments as well personally owned instruments. Students are expected to obtain all items on the band supply list provided to the students.

PRACTICING AT SCHOOL

There will be practice rooms available for students to use before and after school. Please make arrangements with a band director to assure that a room will be available. Mrs. Nabower and Mr. Fonda will also be available during this time for individual help.

CANDY, GUM, POP, SNACKS, ETC.

Candy, gum, pop, snacks of any kind are not allowed in the band room unless they have been approved for a specific occasion. This is true of the entire band area, including practice rooms.

CELL PHONES

Cell phones provide a distraction both to the students using them and those around them. If a director sees a cell phone out during a rehearsal, the cell phone will be held in the band office until the end of the day. By signing this document, students and parents agree to these terms. The only exception is during tuning exercises, where a tuning app may be used.

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Middle School Jazz Band: is an auditioned ensemble for 6th-8th graders that meets once a week before school. Students who play the following instruments may audition: saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, piano, drumset, and bass guitar. This group performs 2-4 times a year. Audition materials will be available the first full week of school. Please see Mrs. Nabower if you are interested.

8th Grade All-State: is a very select honor band composed of 8th graders from across the state of Nebraska. Selection is based off of a recorded audition. This event will be held at the University of Nebraska-Kearney on Saturday January 18th, 2020.

Wayne State Honor Band: is an auditioned honor band for 6th-8th graders from the Northeast part of Nebraska. This event will be held on Saturday January 25th, 2020 at Wayne State College.

BMS Solo Day: This is an optional opportunity for students to perform a solo and receive feedback from a clinician. This event will be on April 4th, 2020.

Blair Honor Band: is open to 7th and 8th graders and will be held at Otte-Blair Middle School on Saturday, March 28th, 2020. Selection is by teacher recommendation, based on Wayne State tryouts.