

# **BMS Band Handbook 2023-2024**

All BMS Bands (grades 5-8) are scheduled to meet every other day for the 2023-2024 school year. Students in 7th & 8th grades will receive a grade for every class (100 possible points per class) based on: preparation (instrument/music) (50 points); participation (40 points); pencil (10 points). In addition, students will receive a grade for every small group lesson. Students unable to attend a lesson or rehearsal (for reasons other than absence from school) must bring Mr. Kelleher a note from a teacher or parent, otherwise they will receive a "0" for the missed class. Excused absences from class and lessons do not need to be made up. Unexcused absences from lessons may be made up by staying after school and helping out in the band room for 45 minutes (until 4:15). In addition, one unexcused absence from a lesson will be dropped every quarter. Students in grades 7/8 will receive grades using the A, B, C, D, F grading scale. Students in grade 5/6 will receive Pass/Fail grades.

Beginning students will keep track of their progress by performing short songs and exercises from their lesson books. There will be performance quizzes for grades 7-8 to ensure that students are making adequate progress and to encourage practicing at home. Students will be given the repertoire/assignment for quizzes well in advance. Students absent on a quiz date will be expected to take the quiz at their next scheduled lesson unless other arrangements are made with Mr. Kelleher.

Band members are expected to participate in all performances. For 5th Grade Band students, the Spring Concert will be the only required performance. For grades 6-8, we are currently planning Winter and Spring concerts. In addition, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band will be expected to participate in the Brooklyn Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies on May 28, 2023.

7th & 8th Grade members will also participate in an Adjudication Festival, followed by a trip to Six Flags. The trip is tentatively scheduled for 6/1/2023. I will follow up when I have more details.

In addition, 8th grade band members may be invited to participate in a band activity with the Woodstock Academy Music Department in March or April.

**All performances are mandatory, and students will receive a grade for participation in every performance (260 points possible per performance).** Students with legitimate excuses will be given the opportunity to make-up a missed performance by writing a 1 1/2-2 page report on a musical topic to be approved by Mr. Kelleher. Students with unexcused absences from performances will receive a "0" for that performance. As band performances are similar to tests in other classes, a "0" or a performance will significantly reduce a student's grade in band.

Extra credit can be earned with prior approval by Mr. Kelleher. Extra credit will be awarded for activities such as private music lessons (outside of school) participation in non-school ensembles, participation in performances not listed in this newsletter, or work in the band room such as filing music.

**Supplies and Repairs** -Students needing to order supplies such as reeds, valve oil, and instrument cleaning/maintenance items can call Gerry's Music at 1-800-724-7402. You can also order supplies online from websites such as musicarts.com and wwbw.com. A representative from Gerry's Music will be coming to the school once a week to bring supplies and pick up/drop off instrument repairs. Please let me know if you have any repair needs as I can fix some minor problems. If I can't fix it, instruments will need to be sent out for repairs to Gerry's. (unless parents wish to make other arrangements).

**Instrument Care** - Students will be shown how to properly maintain an instrument. After a certain amount of use, all instruments, particularly woodwinds, will need some adjustments and repair work performed by a

professional repair technician. When properly maintained, repair and maintenance costs can be kept to a minimum. When not properly maintained, instrument repairs can quickly become costly, and repairs will be more frequent.

**Performance Dates:** Information regarding these performances/events will follow as soon as dates and times are available. (events marked with “\*” are optional/extra-credit)

- QV Middle School Music Festival (more details to follow)
- CMEA Eastern Region Middle School Auditions and Festival (more details to follow)
- Winter Concert (grades 6-8) (12/20, snow date 12/21)
- Woodstock Academy Concert (grade 8) (date tba)
- Spring Concert (grades 5-8) 4/25/2024
- Brooklyn Memorial Day Parade (Grades 6-8) Monday, 5/27/2024, Brooklyn Fairgrounds
- Adjudication Festival & Music Trip 6/6/2024 - tentative (7th & 8th Grade)
- Any performances during the school day - participation in these performances is also mandatory (except when a student is absent from school)

**Where to look for more information:**

I will send home more information about performances as they approach. You can also check the school web site <http://ms.brooklynschools.org> for information about performances. In addition, the lesson schedule is usually posted on the school website. The lesson schedule is always posted in the band room, and in most teachers' rooms.

Please do not hesitate to call (774-9153 x1275) or email me ([kelleher@brooklynschools.org](mailto:kelleher@brooklynschools.org)) with any questions, comments, or concerns.

All band students should have their parents/guardians sign below. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students must have this **signed and returned** to Mr. Kelleher, **for a grade**, by

Friday, September 22, 2024

We have read and agree to follow the guidelines in the BMS Band Handbook.

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(parent/guardian signature)

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(student signature)