

Brandon Middle School Band Manual

2009-2010 Edition

This Band Manual gives both parents and students a working knowledge of the Brandon Middle School Band program. It includes basic educational objectives, course descriptions, grading policies, rules, and important dates that help provide your child with a rewarding and enjoyable experience in our band program. If you have any questions that are not answered herein, please contact me (648-4450 ext. 61236, amy.pallett@vbschools.com).

Ms. Amy Pallett
Band Director

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Beginning Band Classes:

Membership is open to all students who wish to extend their knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of music by learning how to play a wind or percussion instrument. Attention is focused on introductory music fundamentals, technical achievement, and acquisition of performance and rehearsal skills through exposure to a variety of literature. The beginning band classes will perform on the Winter Concert in December and the Spring Concert in May. One or two after school rehearsals may be required, to combine classes, prior to each concert. Activity buses will be provided as transportation home from such rehearsals. Books needed: "Standards of Excellence" books 1 and 2. (We will be in book 1 for a few months before you will need to purchase Book 2.)

Intermediate Band Classes:

Membership is open to all students who have successfully completed a band class in the previous year. This class could be combined with a small Beginning class. The course will be a continuation of the technical training started in the beginning class. Emphasis is placed on the acquisition of skills necessary to meet high standards of music performance. The groups will perform in the Winter Concert in December, the Concert Band Festival in March, and the Spring Concert in May. Books needed: "Standards of Excellence" Book 1, 2 and 3, Essential Technique 2000 and "Rhythm Vocabulary Charts" Book 1 by Ed Sueta.

Advanced Band Class:

Membership is open to Eighth Grade students only and is based on ability, interest, and experience. This class requires the director's approval. Students are acquainted with the great heritage of symphonic literature and are given the opportunity to develop high standards of musicianship. Emphasis is placed on artistic performance commensurate with the maturation level and experience of the group. Students will perform in the Winter Concert in December, , the Spring Concert in May, various feeder concerts, and on other occasions deemed appropriate. All band students will be provided with additional optional activities throughout the year. After school sectional and full band rehearsals are required. Transportation will be provided by activity buses. Books needed: "Rhythm Vocabulary Charts" Book 1 by Ed Sueta, Standards of Excellence Book 2 and 3, and Essential Technique 2000.

CLASS PROCEDURES:

Instrument storage: When students arrive at school in the morning, they may bring their instruments to the band room and place them in the storage racks. Before boarding the bus at the end of the day, students may return to the band room to pick up their instruments. The school provides the storage racks as a convenience to students, but we are not responsible for instruments left there during the day or overnight. Please mark the student's name on instrument cases and personal equipment, lock the case if possible, and insure your instrument through your homeowner's or renter's insurance for optimal security. Keep a record of the make, model, and serial number of your instrument.

Starting class: Each student is to be in his/her seat with instrument, music, pencil, notebook, etc. at the starting time and is to have his/her instrument out and ready to play within two minutes of the starting time of the period. Please take care of pencil sharpening, bathroom trips, etc. before the start of class to maximize rehearsal time.

End of class: Students will be given a couple of minutes at the end of the period to put their instruments away. All cases are to be completely closed and stored properly. Failure to store instruments properly can result in damage to the instrument. (I will call home regarding any instrument abuse that I observe.) Students will return to their seats until the class is dismissed.

Classes are frequently taped in an effort evaluate and aid instruction.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

The following materials are to be carried with the student's instrument at all times:

Flute: cleaning rod, cleaning cloth

Clarinet: swab, cork grease, 4 good reeds-Beginners strength 2 ½, Intermediate/Advanced 2 ½-3, Vanduren or Mitchell Lurie brand reeds are recommended

Oboe, Bassoon: swab, cork grease, two good (Gower) reeds, seat strap for bassoon

Saxophone: cork grease, neck strap, 4 good reeds- 2 ½ - 3 strength Vanduren brand reeds are recommended

Trumpet, Baritone, Tuba: valve oil, straight mute if needed in music, tuning slide grease, and lint-free cloth

Trombone: slide oil or super slick and water spray bottle, tuning slide grease, mute if needed in music, and a lint-free cloth

French Horn: rotary oil, tuning slide grease, lint-free cloth

Percussion: concert drum sticks, drum key, practice pad, bell mallets-white plastic mallets are inexpensive and very durable, bells for beginners and others as indicated in class

All students will need a one- subject spiral notebook and a sharpened pencil every day.

Pep band students will need a music lyre and a flip folder as well as blue jeans, white socks/shoes, and a shirt purchased through the school.

Advanced Band and Festival Band students will be fitted for/assigned a uniform.

Music stands, sheet music, and large instruments will be provided by the school. Proper care and the return of music and instruments will be the responsibility of each student.

Instrument repair: If it becomes necessary to have a student's instrument repaired, the band director must receive a note from the parent. Students without their instrument in class, or proof of repair, will lose partial grade points and be given a written assignment.

GENERAL BEHAVIOR:

1. No gum, food, or other items are to be in the student's mouths while in the band room or during any band rehearsals or performances.
2. Talking or other disturbances are not permitted.
3. Proper posture and attention are required at all times.
4. Proper care of all band equipment is expected. Writing on music stands is prohibited.
5. Students are to remain in their seats unless given permission to get up.
6. Alternative written assignments will be given to students without required materials or for disrupting class.
7. Tardies to class-1-2= warning and corrective assignment, 3= detention, 4 or more in a nine week period or tardies of more than five minutes = referral to administration
8. Respect for teacher(s)/students is required.

Discipline: Discipline problems will be handled in the following manner-

Minor problems: First offense=warning or Behavior Modification Assignment; Second offense=detention or Behavior Modification Assignment; Third offense=referral to an administrator.

Major discipline problems will be handled through an automatic detention or referral as appropriate. Failure to serve a detention will result in a referral. I will make every effort possible to contact you if I see a discipline, or other, problem developing! Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns.

ILLNESS

As a rule, if a student is well enough to be in school, he/she is well enough to play their instrument. If there is an illness or medical condition that will affect playing, please send a note from the doctor.

MAKE-UP WORK

It is the responsibility of the student to check with the teacher for any make-up work. Make-up work may include coming in before or after school to make-up a playing assignment, recording a playing assignment at home or at school, or written work. Make-up work must, normally, be completed within three days of the absence, but extenuating circumstances will be considered if presented in a timely manner. Make-up work is only allowed if the absence is excusable.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are recommended, but not required. I will be happy to provide you with a list of some of the fine private teachers in the area.

Grading Scale:

A=4.5-5.0 B=3.5-4.4 C=2.5-3.4 D=1.5-2.4 E= 0.0-1.4

GRADING SYSTEM

Playing and written assignments: 50% - Playing tests will include in-class individual performances of short sections of music for evaluation. Any student who does not have his/her instrument on test days (except for repairs) will take the test on the next school day and lose one letter grade off their final score. Written tests will include music theory and music history lessons as studied in class.

Class participation: 25% - Class participation includes bringing and maintaining proper equipment such as instrument, reeds, pencil, music and books, etc., paying attention and participating in class, correct posture, etc.

Rehearsal/Performance/Projects: 15% - Performances and rehearsals are required as part of the quarter grade. Please try to schedule doctor and dentist appointments on non-rehearsal days. If a conflict does occur, please contact the director before the scheduled event. Students will be required to complete 3 projects per year as a required part of their grade. These projects are assigned to compliment a well-balanced music program.

Practice records: 10% - Practicing is a crucial part of learning and maintaining proficiency on a musical instrument. Students will be required to turn in a weekly record of time spent practicing at home. The practice records are due on the first day of each school week and require a minimum of two hours for an "A." Students can pick which nights they would like to practice during the week. The two hours is best divided into twenty to thirty minute intervals.

EXTRA CREDIT

Students can earn extra credit by taking private lessons or by attending or participating in extra-curricular performances.

CONCERTS

Bands are performance-oriented classes. The major form of evaluation of any program or individual is concert performance. It is, therefore, very important that concerts be treated with seriousness.

Dress: Dress for concerts will be Brandon Band uniforms for Advanced Band members and "nice" clothes for all others. For males, nice clothes should be interpreted as dress pants, a collared shirt with a tie, and presentable shoes. Skirts/blouses, dresses, or dress pants and a blouse are required for girls. Skirts and dresses must be finger-tip length, but due to the elevated seating on stage, longer lengths are strongly recommended. Dress shoes are required. Any student who does not own the proper clothing and cannot afford to purchase it should contact the band director at least two weeks prior to a performance in writing to arrange for borrowing clothes for the student.

Concert tardies: Instrumental musicians must warm-up their instruments, fingers, and lips, as well as tune before a performance. Lateness will affect grades and extreme lateness will cause the student to forfeit the opportunity to perform and all grade points for the event.

Concert etiquette: One group of musicians will frequently be sitting quietly in the auditorium while another group performs. Each group's performance is important. Please support the efforts of all of our fine Brandon Bands by planning to stay for the entire concert performance.

Transportation: Activity buses will provide transportation home from after school rehearsals. Transportation to and from concerts is the responsibility of the parents.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Pep Band

Pep band is open to all students who have completed at least one year of band. We will have three Brandon home football game performances. A music lyre, flip folder, and "uniform," as previously described, are required. The pep band may also perform for pep rallies or other events deemed appropriate.

Jazz Band

Jazz band is open to all students playing jazz instruments by an audition process. We will rehearse weekly and perform jazz, rock, and swing styles of music on concerts and other appropriate engagements.

Sixth and Seventh Grade All-City Bands/All-City Jazz Band

This activity is sponsored by the Virginia Beach Public Schools. Participants are selected by their band director based on class participation, dependability, and musical ability. Brandon will receive a quota in January of students that can be placed in the bands based on overall program enrollment.

Students can compete with other middle and high school students for placement in All-City Jazz band based on an audition process.

Selected students will participate in two days of rehearsals and perform a concert on the second day, usually a Saturday in March.

All District Junior Honor Band

Auditions for District II (Norfolk, VA Beach, Eastern Shore) Junior All- District Honor Band will be held on a Saturday in the first part of December. Any student with previous band experience can audition for the group. Audition materials will be available at the beginning of November. There will be a small fee for the audition.

Students who make the band will participate in two days of rehearsals with a guest conductor in February at a school to be announced. This will provide students with the opportunity to play with about 90 of the area's finest musicians!

Solo and Ensemble

Students will have the opportunity to prepare solos, trios, quartets, etc. and perform them for a judge in the Spring. The students will receive a rating based on their performance. Music for the performance must be chosen from the VBODA Graded Manual. Most area stores will have music sorted by grades in their stores now, but the selection will increase in January. If a student is in doubt about whether a piece is acceptable or not, check with the band director. A small fee is required for the event and all band members are encouraged to participate.

Spring Trip

A spring trip to Busch Gardens or King's Dominion may be arranged for sometime in May or June. This trip would occur on a Saturday and would be paid for by each student. In order to participate, a student must have participated in all required performances and pass all four quarters of band. Students who receive ISS or OSS at any time throughout the school year may be considered for exclusion from the trip.

Band Letter

Students who complete 3 of the following will be eligible for the Brandon Band Letter:

- Audition for/make and participate in District Band
- Receive a I or II rating on a Grade III - VI piece at Solo and Ensemble
- Participate in Concert Band Festival- if not required
- Participate in Pep Band
- Participate in Jazz Band
- participate in All-City Band

"Parents are reminded that all student papers, tests, etc. are the property of Brandon Middle School and the instructor. These items may be sent home at the teacher's discretion. Any parent wishing to view any materials shall contact the teacher."

Note: Any student who would like individual help on anything can make arrangements to come in before or after school.

A FINAL NOTE

Learning to play a musical instrument is a rewarding, lifelong experience. Participating in a band enhances that experience through the sharing of common goals. Students will experience connections between band and core classes that will improve their overall education. The responsibilities, relationships, and knowledge gained through band will be cherished for years to come. Please feel free to contact me at any time during the year and after the completion of Brandon's Band Program-I will always be an available resource for my students!

IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 14/15	Color Guard Meeting/Try-outs
Oct./Nov.	Pep Band performs at Brandon home football games- 10/7, 10/28, 11/5 and possibly 11/18-Championship
Oct. 9	Jazz Band auditions (rehearsal /performance dates TBA)
Oct. 14/Jan. 13/Apr. 14	Band Parents Meetings- 6:00 p.m.
Nov. 24/Dec. 1	Combined class rehearsals 3:50-5:30
December 2	Winter Concert 7:00 p.m. (All Bands)
Dec. 5	District Band Try-outs
Dec. 11	Recruitment concerts tour
Dec. 18	Lunch Concerts
Feb 4-6	District Band (for those who made it)
Feb. 19	Festival Frenzy Friday
Feb. 25	Pre- Festival Concert
Mar. 5, 6	Concert Band Festival- Int./Adv. Band (time/day TBA)
March 19, 20	All-City 6 th , 7 th , Jazz Band-selected students (7 th Grade chair placements TBA)
Apr. 28, 29	Combined class rehearsal 3:50-5:30 p.m.
April/ May-TBA	Solo and Ensemble Festival-optional
May 4	Spring Band Concert-All Bands 7:00 p.m.
June 5	Spring Trip
June 12	Brandon Band Awards

LOCAL INSTRUMENT AND ACCESSORY DEALERS

This listing includes stores in the area. This list is provided as a convenience to parents and is not intended to be all-inclusive or endorse any of the stores listed. Please check the yellow pages/internet for additional stores.

Alpha Music, 3234 Virginia Beach Blvd., 486-2001, percussion equipment and method books

Music and Arts Center, Fairfield Shopping Center (corner of Kempsville/Providence Rds.), 495-0988, Crossway Shopping Center (near Greenbrier Mall), Chesapeake, 366-0666 Lynnhaven (beside the mall) VA Beach, 431-9300: rental instruments, accessories, private lessons, music, and repairs

Calamus Music, 955 B W. 21 St., Norfolk, 622-2148, used instruments, method books, reeds and accessories, instrument repair

Ego Music, 2173 Upton Drive, 563-9001, instrument rental, method books, reeds and accessories, solo and ensemble music, private lessons, and repairs

The Flute Tooter/ The Associated Music Shop, 4722 Princess Anne Rd, 495-7339, instrument rental, method books, reeds and accessories, solo and ensemble music, private lessons, and repairs

Kelley Music, 1637 Independence Blvd., 460-3580, some band instruments, accessories, music, and private lessons

Moe's Music, 2923 Virginia Beach Blvd., 431-8888, instrument rental, method books, reeds and some accessories, and instrument repair

Please note that when purchasing an instrument, you can buy out-right through wholesale catalogs and potentially save a great deal of money. If you decide to purchase an instrument, I will be glad to give you names of good brands and/or try the instruments out for you. You can also up-grade mouthpieces. I can also be of help for gift-giving occasions! Please don't hesitate to call me at any time for any reason!

Please return this signed form to your band teacher ASAP.

I have read the information contained in the Brandon Band Manual and I agree to abide by the stated policies.

Student Name (printed) _____

Student Signature _____ Team _____

I have read the information contained in the Brandon Band Manual and agree to support my child efforts to carry out these policies.

Parent's Name(s) (Please print) _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Please PRINT the following information:

Band (Circle one) Beginning Intermediate Advanced

Instrument(s) _____ Grade _____ Period _____

Street Address _____

Zip _____ Home Phone: _____

Parent(s) work phone numbers: 1) Business Name _____

Parent Name: _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail address _____

2) Business Name _____

Parent Name _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail address _____

Does your child have any medical conditions or other factors/information you would like me to be aware of?
