

# Brandon Middle School

Keep in Binder



*Success is a journey, not a destination.*

## Orchestra Handbook



Striving for Excellence

*Drive, Determination, Dedication, Desire*

*Brandon Middle School Orchestra Handbook*  
*Sharon Garcia, Orchestra Director*

The purpose of the Brandon Middle School Orchestra Program is to foster the personal, musical, emotional, and educational growth of students through the orchestra's group and individual activities. The orchestra program is a vehicle for individual achievement, as well as providing the opportunity for development of social interaction and mastering the dynamics of functioning as a productive team member. Through the numerous activities, the students can explore their talents and interests in music and musical performance.

**ORCHESTRA COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

Beginning Orchestra is designed to meet the needs of students who wish to learn to play a string instrument. (The beginning students will usually be expected to furnish his/her own instrument.) Attention is focused on introductory music fundamentals, technical achievement, and acquisition of performance and rehearsal skills through exposure to a variety of literature. Students enrolled in the middle school should be capable of completing the requirement of proficiency level I. Some after school performances may be required of students.

Intermediate Orchestra is designed for students to be a continuation of the musical training received in beginning orchestra. Membership is open to all students who have successfully completed the requirements of beginning orchestra and requires the director's approval. Although most students enrolled will be capable of completing the skills of proficiency level II or III in middle school, students of other proficiency levels may be enrolled for the purposes of balanced instrumentation and grouping. Enrollment and individual school needs may necessitate the scheduling of more than one section of a given course title. After school performances may be required of all students.

Advanced Orchestra is designed to provide students the opportunity to develop high standards of instrumental musicianship. Membership is based on ability, interest, and experience; is by audition only; and requires the director's approval. Most students enrolled will be capable of completing the skills of proficiency level III or IV in middle school; students of other proficiency levels may be enrolled for the purposes of balanced instrumentation and grouping. After school performances may be required of all students.



## NOTES OF INTEREST

..

### ♫ GENERAL BEHAVIOR

1. No gum or food allowed in the classroom, during rehearsals or performances.
2. talking or other disturbances are not permitted.
3. No playing of an instrument in the halls or outside the room.
4. Proper posture and attention are required at all times.
5. Proper care of the instruments and equipment is expected. Writing on music stands is prohibited.
6. Students are to remain in their seats unless given permission to get up.
7. Alternative written assignments will be given to students without required materials or for disrupting The class.
8. Tardies to class: 1-2= warning and corrective assignment; 3= detention; 4 or more =referral.
9. Respect for teacher(s) and other students is required.

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

Minor problems:

First offense= warning or behavior modification assignment

Second offense= detention or behavior modification assignment

Third offense= referral

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 to contact you if I see a problem developing. Please fell free to contact me with questions or concerns.

**ILLNESS:** As a rule, if a student is well enough to be in school, he/ she is well enough to participate in class. If there is a medical condition that will affect playing, please notify me.

### CLASS PROCEDURES

**Instrument storage:** When students arrive at school in the morning, they may bring their instruments to the orchestra room and place them in their assigned space. Students may return to the orchestra room for their instrument in the afternoon. The school provides areas as a convenience to students, but we are not responsible for instruments left there during the day or overnight. Please mark student's name on all personal equipment, books, supplies and provide a name tag for the case. Insure your instrument through your homeowners or renters insurance for optimal security. Keep a record of the make, model, and serial number of the instrument.

**Starting class:** Students are to be in their assigned seats with instruments and all necessary materials within two minutes after entering the room. 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 few minutes at the end of class 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. Students will return to their seats until the class is dismissed.

Class are frequently taped in an effort to evaluate and aid instruction.

### ♫ GRADING

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** 50% Class participation includes bringing and maintaining proper equipment such as instrument, rosin, music binder, books and supplies; paying attention and active participation in class; correct posture while playing.

Loss of points from the daily evaluation come from the following:

- A. No instrument for class participation.
- B. Music not in class but at home or in locker.
- C. Non-participation
- D. No pencil to mark music
- E. No planner
- F. Lack of supplies for class

**PLAYING AND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:** 25% Playing tests will include in-class individual, sectional, and ensemble performances of music for evaluation. Any student who is absent, must make arrangements to make up the test and will not lose points. Written assignments will include music history and theory lessons.

**REHEARSALS/ PERFORMANCES/ PROJECTS: 15%** Performances and rehearsals are required as part of the quarterly grade. Please try to schedule doctor and dentist appointments on non-rehearsal days. If a conflict does occur, please contact Mrs. Garcia. Required rehearsals are scheduled well in advance, posted on calendars, the website and BMS activities calendar. Students will be required to complete 2-3 projects per year as a required part of their grade. These projects are only 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 each Monday. After school help session time may be used on the practice record.

#### GRADING SCALE=

A=94-100% B=86-93% C=78-85% D=70-77% E=below 70%

#### 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 after school to make up a playing assignment, recording an assignment on a tape recorder, or written work. Make-up work must 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 excused. An assignment and turn in date will be given for a missed performance (excused).

#### PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are recommended , but not required. See Mrs. Garcia for a list of private teachers in the area.

#### 🎵 INSTRUMENT INSPECTION

Students are expected to keep rosin, a pencil, a few replacement strings, and a cleaning/polishing cloth in their instrument cases. All bows are to be loosened after each practice. No music should be inside the case. An instrument inspection will be held once every nine weeks.

#### 🎵 LABELS

Each student is required to label his/her instrument with name on the case or handle. Please have a tag that is made out of plastic or leather.

#### 🎵 LOST MUSIC

Each student will have to have a three ring binder that is 1 ½ inches wide. A packet of plastic vinyl page protectors is also required. Many pieces of music and information are passed out during the year and each student is given the opportunity to have a copy. Students are to keep their music in the binder. Do not fold or crumple the music!!! Music is not to be kept in your instrument case. Warm up sheets, class books, music handouts, and performance music will be collected when completed.

#### 🎵 EXTRA CREDIT

Students may earn extra credit by:

1. Attending other public school concerts (bring in the program).
2. Performing in the Bay Youth Symphony or other music groups such as church groups.
3. Write a report on a pre-approved music related subject (your own work).

#### 🎵 AWARDS

Students must meet the following criteria to qualify for any of the awards at the end of the year banquet:

1. Have a B average in orchestra for the year
2. Participate in two of the following:
  - a. audition for Jr. District orchestra
  - b. participate in Jr. District orchestra
  - c. audition for All City
  - d. participate in All City
  - e. participate in the District II Festival
  - f. participate in Solo/Ensemble Festival
3. Participate in all the required performances
4. Attend all the rehearsals and sectionals scheduled (bring note if unable to attend, and come to a make-up session)
5. Demonstrate a positive attitude
6. Fill in the chart provided at the beginning of the year!!!

## 🎵 UNIFORMS

### **7/8 grade orchestra members will wear the following as a FORMAL uniform:**

Young Men –White shirt with long black tie and dark pants with dark shoes.

Young Ladies – A white blouse, black skirt that meets at the knee or below, or black pants, with dark shoes .

### **6<sup>th</sup> graders( all concerts) and 7/8 graders( INFORMAL concerts)**

BMS Orchestra t-shirt and Black pants .

Black jeans ok and tennis shoes ok.

## 🎵 FINGERNAILS

No artificial/acrylic fingernails are allowed in class. The instrument cannot be played correctly, and it does damage to the strings and to the instrument.

## 🎵 PERFORMANCE

Orchestra is a performance-oriented class. The major form of evaluation of any program or individual is concert performance. It is, therefore, very important that concerts be treated with seriousness. All orchestra members are expected to attend the required performances

## 🎵 REQUIRED AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS

Students will be **required** to attend after school rehearsals to prepare for concerts. These rehearsals will be part of the nine-week grade. Advance notification will be placed on Info-Line, the printed monthly calendar at school, on the calendar on the Brandon webpage, and on the BMS activity calendar. Students should also record this in their planners. After rehearsals, students may ride the activity buses, which leave every day at 5:30 p.m. Parents may also pick up students at the front of the building.

## 🎵 FIELD TRIPS

Students will have the opportunity to attend several field trips during the year. In order to participate, each student will:

- \* Pay the assessed fees.
- \* Have participated in all performances.
- \* Lose the opportunity to participate if they have an OSS during the current school year.
- \* Demonstrate satisfactory classroom performance and participation skills.
- \* Refunds will not be given for tickets after the turn in deadline.

## 🎵 SPRING TRIP

A spring trip to Busch Gardens 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. Students who receive an OSS at any time throughout the school year may not be considered for the trip.

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

Our goal is to encourage a life long learning experience that will produce mature and responsible music consumers in society. In our efforts to implement a well-balanced program, we will look to be sensitive to the cultural backgrounds and individual learning modes of each music student.