

# **BMS Band Handbook**

## **2017-2018**

All BMS Bands (grades 5-8) are scheduled to meet every other day for the 2017-2018 school year. Students will receive a grade for every class (40 possible points per class) based on their participation, preparation, and achievement. In addition, students will receive a grade for every small group lesson based on the same criteria as rehearsals. 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 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 3:30). 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.

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, as well as the due date. Students will be assigned a time to take the quiz. 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.

7th & 8th grade band will meet together once a week. The meeting time will alternate between a 7th grade band period one week and an 8th grade band period the following week. It is the responsibility of each student to check the band schedule in order to be sure when 7th & 8th grade band will meet as well as to check their lesson schedule. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and will receive a "0" for any missed rehearsal unless they have a written note from a teacher or parent explaining the absence.

Band members are expected to participate in all performances. For 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band students, the Spring Concert will be the only required performance. For grades 6-8, There will be Winter and Spring concerts as well as the Brooklyn Memorial Day Parade. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band members will also participate in an adjudication festival and trip to an amusement park in late May. In addition, 8th grade band members will perform with the Woodstock Academy Symphonic Band tentatively scheduled for March or April. All performances are mandatory, and students will receive a grade for participation in every performance (150 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 the CMEA Middle School Music Festival and the QVMS Music Festival (see Mr. Kelleher for details), 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 musicandarts.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).**

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

- \*Quinebaug Valley MS Music Festival (11/13 & 11/15), Plainfield HS T
- \*Eastern Regional Music Festival auditions, Nov. 11 – East Lyme MS, East Lyme, CT
- Winter Concert (grades 6-8) (12/18, snow date 12/21)
- \*ERMS Festival Concert 3/9 & 3/10 2018, Conn College
- Woodstock Academy Concert (grade 8) Spring 2017 (date tba)
- Spring Concert (grades 5-8) 4/26/2018
- Brooklyn Memorial Day Parade (Grades 6-8) Monday, May 28, Brooklyn Fairgrounds
- Adjudication Festival & Music Trip 5/31/18
- There will also be 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 web site. The lesson schedule is always posted in the band room, and in most teachers' rooms.**

**Please do not hesitate to call me (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 16.**

---

(parent/guardian signature)

---

(student signature)