



August 15, 2016

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Greetings from Butterfield Trail Middle School! This packet is written to give you a heads up on all of the wonderful things that are going to be happening in the BTMS Band Program this year. We are thrilled about this new chapter and hope that you are too!

Attendance of Public Performances is a HUGE part of your child's grade. We are a performance-based group! Please make every attempt to have your child at all events. We give the dates of required events now so that plans can be made accordingly. Their grade will reflect their absence. ***Also, students with any unexcused absences will be ineligible for the Spring Trip.*** Exceptions can be made for extenuating circumstances; however, there will be an alternate assignment given for "excused" absences, no matter the circumstance. In order for a student to be eligible for the alternate assignment, parent contact must be made prior to the absence, or official documentation given after the absence. ***Handwritten letters will not be accepted after the absence.*** We want to teach our students that band is a TEAM activity! We are at our best when ALL students are present and accounted for. We need everyone in order to be successful! If there are excessive or significant absences that do not fall under the title of "excused", then the director reserves the right to remove that student from the band program.

Behavioral Expectations

We believe that band students are among some of the best-behaved individuals in our school; however, when a student begins to frequently distract others from learning, we take corrective measures. Our classroom rules are:

1. Be prepared! Be in your seat at the assigned time with all required materials; band binder, instrument & pencil.
2. Show respect at all times! We're all on the same "team"!
3. Take ownership of your surroundings! This is YOUR band. Take pride in it! No food or gum in the band room!

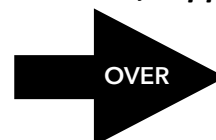
Consequences include:

1. Verbal warning
2. Refocus form- This form allows a student to reflect upon their behavior & consider ways to improve upon it.
3. Lunch detention/Parent contact- When a student has completed three refocus forms, they will be assigned lunch detention.

School Instruments: If your child uses a school-owned instrument, the fee for the year will be \$100. You may pay all at once, or \$25 per quarter, if you like. We will send payment reminders to you throughout the year.

Supplies: Includes the following items: Band book, band binder, band t-shirt, Reeds (For reed instruments), and Sticks (for Percussionists). We offer reeds at a much lower price than retail, so it greatly benefits you to go through us. Other required instrument care supplies will be offered for sale for those students who may need replenishments from what they received in 6th grade.

Note: Students will not be allowed to travel on the spring trip unless all maintenance, supply, & t-shirt fees have been paid in full.



	Reeds/Sticks	Band Book	Band T-shirt	Rental Fee	Total
School-owned Instruments	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$25 per quarter OR \$100 per year	\$140/year
Student-owned Flute, Brass	N/A	\$10.00	\$10.00	N/A	\$20/year
Student-owned Clarinets, Saxophones	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	N/A	\$40/year
ALL Percussion Students	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$60/year

If you have difficulty with our fees, please contact us to make arrangements. We are willing to work with everyone!

7th Grade Expectations

Students participate in a daily, 40 minute band class. All students will participate in the Solo and Ensemble Assessment in April. Highly motivated students will also have the choice of auditioning for the All-Region Band in December.

Students will also have a weekly chair test grade. For these, students will perform an assigned piece of music and then be graded upon accuracy. They will keep up with their grades on a grade log, which you can feel free to check from time to time. Students will have the freedom to perform their test in a variety of ways: 1) In class, 2) Before school, or 3) Google Voicemail. They can make up grades at to earn a higher score, but must make the grade up within a week of the original test. The same applies to those who are absent on the test day.

Tools to achieve the highest grade and level of musicianship possible:

- Keep up-to-date with all pass-off assignments and chair tests.
- Utilize the BTMS Band Google Voicemail system. This is a GREAT way for students to complete pass-offs at home, & receive feedback from the director. This is a unique number dedicated to the BTMS Band and is not a personal number.
- PRACTICE! The more you practice, the better you will perform when it comes time to complete a playing assignment! The band room is open EVERYDAY at 7am. What a great time to get your practice for the day out of the way!
- Attend **ALL** required performances

It is our goal to enrich lives through band, but if for some reason a student wishes to drop band, they may only do so at the end of a semester. Band director approval is required and parent contact with director is required before counselors change the schedule. This is a transferable life skill that we are trying to build into our students.

Finally, thank you so much for entrusting your child's music development to our band staff. We look forward to serving you and your child and hope to work together to ensure a productive and positive musical experience.

The following page is the student information/health form that we will use this year. Please complete it in its entirety and sign at the end, confirming that you and your child have read and discussed all information provided.

Sincerely,

Brad Reeves, 7th Grade Director

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