

2017-2018 Brighton Middle School Band Eighth Grade Handbook

GRADING POLICY: The purpose of this policy is to provide a means of grading that fairly reflects the variety of contributions and activities of a performance ensemble. It allows all students to experience success regardless of their individual degree of talent, and it requires all students to be active and positive participants in daily rehearsals, which is absolutely essential for an ensemble to achieve excellence. Below are the four factors set by the Tipton County Board of Education and how each factor is assessed within our band classroom:

1. **Nine Weeks Test - Public Performance – 30%:** Public performances consist of concerts, solo and ensemble, parades, festivals, and football games. Performances vary depending on which performing group your child is taking part in and what the director assigns. Performances are considered exams, and due to the nature of a performance ensemble cannot be made up. In rare circumstances, the director may approve an absence from a performance; absence due to a family vacation is not deemed excused.
2. **Test Average - Pass-offs – 30%:** Pass-offs, also known as playing tests, will be done periodically throughout the school year; material covered will range from material covered in class to small assignments that require the students to work on material at home.
3. **Daily Average - Classroom Performance – 30%:** This grade Includes: Immediate set-up upon arrival, individual warm-up, participation in all classroom activities (warm-up, breathing gym, rehearsal, etc.), preparedness for class (having all materials at your seat, practicing at home, etc.), performance of correct notes and rhythms, behavior, listening, posture/projection, and overall musical contribution. Afterschool rehearsals also count under the daily average grade. With classes being separated, attendance to afterschool rehearsals is mandatory. Generally, the rule for afterschool rehearsals is if it would excuse you from school, it will excuse you from after school rehearsal. Please notify Mr. Mayo as soon as possible if you are going to miss a rehearsal.
4. **Homework – Practicing – 10%:** Students will be assessed on practicing by their steady improvement day to day outside the classroom and whether or not the student takes his or her instrument home daily. If the instructor believes that a student or group of students are not practicing, the student will be assigned a practice log, which will need to be signed by the student and parent each week. More information about practicing is presented later in the handbook.

The primary responsibilities of each band member are to participate positively in daily rehearsals, while improving their playing skills through consistent practice time.

RULES: Students are expected to follow all county/school rules, to be respectful, and to be ready to learn. Band is an extra-curricular subject and membership is a privilege. With such a large membership, there is a lot of trust held between members and directors/staff. Use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and/or any other illegal or age inappropriate substances will result in immediate expulsion from the band. Fighting may also result in immediate expulsion. Other disciplinary matters may result in office referral and possible expulsion from band.

MATERIALS: Students are required to have a No.2 pencil (no pens), a band folder or notebook with proper papers, their instrument, and their music in class every day. They are also required to have any materials that are required to keep the instrument in working order (reeds, valve oil, slide oil, mouthpiece, sticks, mallets, etc.) Percussionists will need a stick bag, 2 pair of snare drum sticks (Vic Firth SD-1 sticks preferred), marching snare drum sticks (Tom Aungst, Collin McNutt, Paul Rennick, or Mike McIntosh are recommended), marimba mallets, xylophone mallets, and timpani mallets. All sticks and mallets need to be marked with your name. Percussionists are required to have a snare drum (or practice pad) and a bell kit for practice at home.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS: If you are playing a school instrument, you will be required to sign a school instrument agreement. Any damage that is incurred while the instrument is loaned to you must be repaired before it is returned. Any uncompleted repairs will be completed and billed to your account at the end of the semester.

CHARMS: The band utilizes an online office assistant application known as Charms. This system allows us to keep up with contact information, dues, and will improve overall contact with parents. Students should have received their login during the previous school year. Also, we encourage you to frequently log-in to Charms to hear about upcoming events, volunteer needs, and other announcements. If you have any questions or concerns regarding Charms, please contact our treasurer, Shannon Kelley, or our co-treasurer, Shelley Fore. You can visit the Charms website at www.charmsoffice.com.

REMIND: All students and parents need to sign up for Remind. This service allows me to send text messages to students and parents so that they receive info throughout the school year. The student/parent numbers will never be seen by me, and you will never see my number. Please text @mayo22 to 81010 to sign up for the service.

PRACTICING: Students will quickly learn that the middle school bands' motto is "*Go Practice!*" Students should take their instrument home on a regular basis. Playing an instrument is a physical activity, requiring time and repetition to develop proper muscles and coordination. Practicing on just weekends is virtually useless as proven through various studies. Despite busy schedules, students need to put in some time on their instrument every day. I recommend to students to practice at least 30 minutes a day. If time is used wisely, a lot can be accomplished in a short time period. Private lessons are not required in the Brighton Bands, but they are recommended. If you are interested in finding a private lesson instructor, feel free to contact me.

STORAGE ROOM: Your instrument may be stored in the storage room in the band room during school hours. The instrument room is intended to be used only during the school day and should not be a permanent home for your instrument. Students may drop their instrument off before they go to homeroom in the morning and pick them up between 2:35-2:40; these times have been approved by the school and have been announced to all teachers. The use of this room is a privilege; if you misuse the storage room or tamper with another's belongings, your storage room privilege may be revoked. The band director, school board, school, or any employees are not liable for any damages that occur to band instruments during any time.

CONCERT ATTIRE: Eighth grade band members will have a uniform top provided; Eighth grade students are required to purchase and wear black dress shoes, black dress pants, and black socks to performances. Other concerts will require formal attire. Men need to wear a collared shirt, dress pants, black socks, and dress shoes. Women may wear a school appropriate dress with dress shoes or may wear the same attire as men. Jeans, cargo pants, carpenter pants, or non-dress shoes are not permitted. Those who do not follow the concert attire dress code will not be allowed to perform and will receive a performance grade of zero.

BOOSTERS/CHAPERONES: The Brighton Band Booster program is the heart of our organization. The Brighton High School Band Boosters and the Brighton Middle School Band Boosters are the same, joint organization; if you are on Facebook, please look up the Brighton Band Boosters page. These parents work very hard to make sure we have the needed materials whether it's instruments, uniforms, music, repairs, or support. The boosters make so much happen for this band program. Booster meetings occur every other month and are usually on the second Tuesday of that month. The next booster meeting will be on Tuesday, August 8th at 7:00PM in the Brighton High School Band Room.

FEES: This year's band fee will be \$40 for Brighton Middle School band students. The fee covers the expense of your child's band shirt (distributed in the Spring), pep-band shirt, and music expense. If this fee is not paid, your child will not

be given a wind shirt or band t-shirt. This will exclude your child from participating in events requiring these items. Please make checks payable to the Brighton Band Boosters.

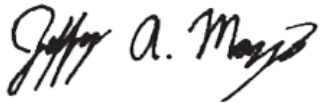
PERFORMANCES: One of the greatest experiences in band is getting to perform. Here at Brighton, we have several opportunities to perform and it is important to know which concerts we will be involved in. Please check the band website regularly throughout the year to find more information about these performances. Also, I will be sending home performance information throughout the year. The eighth grade will perform at a few football games, the Covington Veterans Day Parade, the Brighton Christmas Parade, the December Christmas Concert, a Spring Concert, and other concerts that will be announced as they come. These as well as any additional performances will be announced well in advance.

FUNDRAISING: The band program is funded partially by the booster program. Fundraising is necessary within most school programs and covers 100% of our operation costs. This money goes to maintaining and replacing school instruments, subsidizing field trips, purchasing student awards, office supplies, sheet music, and purchasing items for the overall need of the band program.

ADDITIONAL NOTES: All 8th grade students who wish to join the high school band next school year will need to audition for the band during the spring semester; if an eighth grade student does not audition for high school band, they will **NOT** be allowed to participate in high school band.

If you have any questions, please email me at: jmayo@tipton-county.com
I am looking forward to a great year!

Go Practice!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey A. Mayo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey A. Mayo
Director, Brighton Middle School Band

Student Information 2017-2018

The Full Handbook can be found at brightonband.com

Name: _____ Current grade level: _____

Parents: _____

Instrument : _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Band T-Shirt size (Adult Sizes): S M L XL XXL XXXL

In case of Emergency, Please call

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

STUDENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS OR ALLERGIES WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT? _____

We would like to utilize balloons to perform breathing exercises. Is your child allergic to latex? YES NO

Informative emails from Mr. Mayo should be sent to: _____

The email address you supply here will be used only for class information or disciplinary concerns. Email is our primary form of communication and is a necessity.

Would you be interested in chaperoning trips? YES NO

Would you be interested in working fundraisers? YES NO

Convenient time and phone number to contact parents: _____

Band Agreement

I, the undersigned, have read the band handbook and reviewed the materials therein with my child/ward. We fully understand the policies set up for attendance, rules, fees, grading policies, and performances.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____