

2023-2024 Brighton Middle School Band 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 three factors that determine band grades and how each factor is assessed within our band classroom:

1. Public Performances and Pass-offs – 50%:
 - a. 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 are required events for participants. In rare circumstances, the director may approve an absence from a performance; absence due to a family vacation or other extracurricular activity is not deemed excused.
 - b. Pass-offs, also known as playing tests, will be done periodically throughout the school year. These pass-offs will occur during class; students will perform for their classmates from their chair/spot in the room (You can choose to sit or stand, whichever makes you more comfortable). Material covered will range from material covered in class to small assignments that require the students to work on material at home. If a student would like to have a pass-off retest, they must do so before or after class. Mr. Kelly believes in rewarding students for work. If a student gets 100% correct on a retest, then the student will receive a 100 in the grade book. **Students must retest pass-offs within the same nine weeks as the original pass-off.**
2. Classroom Performance and After School Rehearsals – 40%: 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. After-school rehearsals also count under the weekly average grade. With classes being separated, attendance to after-school rehearsals is mandatory. Each after-school rehearsal counts as a weekly grade. Generally, the rule for after-school rehearsals is if it would excuse you from school, it will excuse you from after-school rehearsal. Please notify Mr. Kelly as soon as possible if you are going to miss a rehearsal. **Please note that failure to bring your band instrument to class results in a zero for that class period.**
3. Homework – Practicing – 10%: Students will be assessed on practicing by their steady improvement day to day outside the classroom and whether 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.

Please note: students are not allowed to write note names or fingerings consistently on their music, as this inhibits their ability to read music. The students are trained to learn the music and must work to memorize note names and fingerings. This is cheating in the band classroom. Actively writing in note names and fingerings will result in a zero for any grade associated with their music; this can include public performance, pass-offs, weekly average, and practicing.

The primary responsibilities of each band member are to participate positively in daily rehearsals while improving their playing skills through consistent practice time. If at any time things come up and things become overwhelming, please communicate with Mr. Kelly. In many situations, he will work with the student and guardian to create a solution.

RULES AND PROCEDURES:

Students are expected to follow all county/school rules, to be respectful, and to be ready to learn. We believe that every student has the right to music education, but no student has the right to rob another student of their education. With this in mind, please understand that it is not acceptable for a band student to distract other students from learning; off-task behaviors can and will be met with prompts, redirection, alternate seating, parent/guardian contact, and/or temporary removal from the rehearsal. Band is an extra-curricular subject and membership is a privilege. If problems persist, off-task behaviors will be referred to administration. It is important to understand that due to band being a performance-based class, much of performance is based off of on-task participation. It is likely that off-task behaviors will result in a lower grade and in some cases the loss of full credit for that student's rehearsal grade.

***Cell Phone Policy:** The school's cell phone policy is in effect in the band room. All cell phones are to be turned completely off (meaning not just locked) and stored in the students backpack. Failure to comply will result in the confiscation of the cell phone as per our school's policy. However, there are times where Mr. Kelly will give permission for brief use of cell phone; this will be on a case-by-case basis. If you have not received permission, you will be held to the school's expectations.

***Chromebook Policy:** We do not use chromebooks in the band room. At all. Mr. Kelly will confiscate any chromebooks seen outside of the students' backpacks and treat them the same as cell phones. You will not need your chromebook for this class.

MATERIALS:

Students are required to have a No.2 pencil (no pens), a band folder or notebook with proper papers, their instrument, their music, and their method book (if applicable) 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.) Instrument maintenance is to be performed at home. Percussionists will need a stick bag, 2 pairs of snare drum sticks (Vic Firth SD-1 sticks preferred), marimba mallets, xylophone mallets, and timpani mallets. Seventh and Eighth-grade percussionists will also need a pair of marching snare drumsticks. All sticks and mallets need to be marked with your name. Percussionists will need to bring their sticks and mallets every day. 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 of any kind, it is important to keep the instrument in optimal condition. If any damage occurs while the instrument is in the student's possession, the student will be responsible for the repair cost as deemed appropriate by the band director.

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. I will never see the student/parent numbers, and you will never see my number. To sign up:

6th Grade – Text @akelly30 to 81010

7th Grade – Text @akelly29 to 81010

8th Grade – Text @akelly28 to 81010

7th/8th Percussion – Text @akellyperc to 81010

PRACTICING:

Students will quickly learn that the middle school bands' motto is "*Go Practice!*" Students should take their personal instruments home every day. School owned instruments may be taken home with Mr. Kelly's approval. 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. We recommend to students to practice at least 15 minutes a day when they start and to practice 30 minutes a day by the spring semester of their 6th grade year. 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. This time is subject to change by administrative decisions. 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.

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. Each performing group has a different set of performances throughout the year. **Please check the band website regularly throughout the year to find more information about these performances.** Also, we will be sending home performance information throughout the year. Performances normally consist of a December Concert and a Spring Concert; some groups have more performances throughout the year. These as well as any additional performances will be announced well in advance.

CONCERT ATTIRE:

All band students are required to wear formal attire to concerts, unless otherwise stated by the band director. 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. We will provide more information on meeting times at a later date.

FEES:

This year's band fee is **\$60** for Brighton Middle School band students. The fee covers the expense of your child's band t-shirt, method book, classroom supplies, purchase/maintenance of school owned instruments, copyright fees, organization fees, printer ink/paper, music expense, and many other expenses throughout the year. Please make checks payable to the

Brighton Band Boosters. Fee waiver does not cover the band fee. Band fees need to be paid by **September 15th**. If there is a problem paying the band fee on time, please email Mr. Kelly at akelly@tipton-county.com.

FUNDRAISING:

The band program is funded by the booster program. Fundraising is necessary within most school programs and, aside from band fees, covers 100% of our operation costs. We do not receive money from the school board. This money goes to maintaining and replacing school instruments, subsidizing field trips, office supplies, sheet music, bringing in extra staff, purchasing items for the overall need of the band program, etc.

A NOTE TO EIGHT GRADE PARENTS:

Please take note that near the end of the school year, your child will get the opportunity to join the Brighton High School Marching Band. It is important to keep band camp and competition dates in mind well in advance. Ordinarily, band camp takes place the **last three full weeks of July**. Also, we normally have competitions every Saturday from mid-September through the end of October. The only Saturday that we normally take off is the Saturday at the end of Fall Break. This means that students will have a competition on the Saturday at the beginning of Fall break.

PRIVATE LESSONS —*Not required but strongly encouraged*—

Private lessons are paid instructional time for students with a private teacher. It is the fastest way for a student to attain individual improvement. In private lessons, students focus on fundamentals, skill development, etudes, and other musical elements. While we strive to provide students with the best education possible, it is impossible to provide each individual with hours of individual feedback and instruction. Students who take private lessons then to develop a command of the instrument, have increased enjoyment of playing, increase their chance of making All-West, and have higher potential for scholarships to college. While lessons are not required, they are strongly encouraged. Private lessons ordinarily range anywhere from \$40-60 an hour but can be more expensive depending on the individual's credentials. Cheaper options may be available through studying under a successful high school or college student. The school, staff, and band program are in no way shape or form associated with private lesson instruction and assumes no liability of any kind from lessons or profit from lessons. If you are interested in finding an instructor, please contact Mr. Kelly.

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

Andrew T. Kelly, M.M.

Director, Brighton Middle School Band

Assistant Director, Brighton high School Band



7785 Highway 51 South
Brighton, Tennessee 38011
Phone: (901) 840-9467
Fax: (901) 840-9475
Email: akelly@tipton-county.com

High School Band – Jeffrey A. Mayo
Middle School Band – Andrew T. Kelly

Welcome to the BMS 2023-2024 school year! For our new members, welcome to the program. For our returning members, welcome back. We have an exciting year of music coming together for the Brighton Middle School Band. We look forward to experiencing the year together.

For sixth-grade students, we will be spending the first few weeks discussing instruments, watching videos on the instruments, and determining what instruments students will play. Amro music will be having their 6th-grade instrument rental meeting at the school on August 22rd. The time will be announced at a later time, as there is still much planning to be done. For seventh and eighth grade students, we will spend the first few weeks going over procedures and reviewing fundamentals.

The band handbook is available online at brightonband.com. Attached is an information sheet that needs to be turned in to Mr. Kelly as soon as possible. **The band handbook is digital**; the school only allows a limited number of paper copies per month, which we would rather use to provide students with music and educational resources. Please read the band handbook in its entirety and sign the form below. Also attached to this sheet is a media permission agreement. We are working to increase our social media and overall performance presence; the media permission will allow us to share performance content, experiences, and successes throughout the school year. We will only use student names if we are given permission but would like to present performance content periodically.

Our primary method of providing information to parents and students outside of the classroom is through Remind. These messages consist of text, pictures, and videos. To sign up: 6th Grade – Text **@akelly30** to 81010; 7th Grade – Text **@akelly29** to 81010; 8th Grade – Text **@akelly28** to 81010; 7th/8th Percussion – Text **@akellyperc** to 81010.

Please do not hesitate to email me at akelly@tipton-county.com with and questions you may have. Email is my primary form of communication, as I do not answer the phone while instructing classes. We are looking forward to the school year!

Musically,
Andrew T. Kelly, M.M.
Director, Brighton Middle School Band
Assistant Director, Brighton High School Band

BMS BAND Student Information 2023-2024

Student Name: _____ Current grade level: _____

Guardian Name(s): _____

Instrument (7th/8th only): _____ Band T-Shirt size (Adult Sizes): _____

Parent Phone #: _____ Parent Email: _____

Student Phone # (if they have one): _____ Student Email: _____

Does your child have any medical conditions that we should be aware of? _____

Band Handbook Agreement

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

Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Media Permission

By signing below, I give permission for my child to be photographed, video recorded, and audio recorded for Brighton Band related content during the 2023-2024 school year. I understand that these recordings/photographs may be seen/heard on YouTube, websites, social media platforms, etc. Student names will not be used in any form without parent/guardian permission.

Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Do you grant permission for us to use your child's name with this content (Circle)? Yes No

Do you grant permission for your child to speak about their band experience on video (Circle)? Yes No

Scan this QR code to view the Handbook:

