

2019-2020 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 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 are required events for participants. 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. If a student would like to have a pass-off retest, they must do so before or after class. Mr. Mayo 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.

3. **Weekly 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 weekly average grade. With classes being separated, attendance to afterschool rehearsals is mandatory. Each afterschool rehearsal counts as a weekly grade. 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. Please note that failure to bring your band instrument to class results in a zero for that class period.

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.

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 known as cheating. The act of 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.

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 daily rehearsal grade.

OUR PHILOSOPHY: In band, we work toward creating a lifelong culture that instills a variety of values. Over the course of the school year, we will briefly discuss many of these values. If students keep an open mind, they are likely to gain many values that will change them for the better; they will carry these values with them the rest of our lives. We ask that parents assist us with these values. We are looking to create a more positive culture. Most of these ideas are based on personal experiences and the works of author Jon Gordon:

- We must believe in optimism and positivity; negativity will only drag us down. We must rise up!
- Believe in yourself and one another; in order to succeed, you must believe that you and others can succeed.
- Get on the Bus – We move forward together as team. If everyone is not on the bus, then we are not moving forward together in the same direction to create a powerful team. We must all share the same vision, purpose, and remain on task to keep the bus moving forward.
- We must care for one another. We can show this by celebrating one another's successes, complimenting one another, and assisting one another when we are in need.
- We must serve one another and our community. You must be willing to sacrifice the "me" for the good of the team.
- The band room is a gossip and drama free zone. Gossiping and drama only spread negativity and often lies. When we spread gossip, the individuals being discussed will almost always find out, which will likely cause drama. Let us not let television and media give us the idea that drama and gossip should be in our lives.
- No Energy Vampires – Energy vampires are those who bring negativity forward. We must bring the positivity forward. Instead of looking at the negative aspect, transform, and try to find the positivity in each situation.
- We must show our gratitude. Be thankful for the people in your life and for what you have. Gratitude is like a muscle of positivity; it gets stronger when you show it.
- We must work toward unity. We need to be driven to work forward together and push one another to the next level of achievement both as musicians and people. Remember that "we" is stronger than "me."
- We must plan our successes and see it through. Anyone can talk; we have to put in the work to reach our goals.
- Overcome adversity – In band, you will meet adversity often. We all make mistakes, and we will fail often. It is about how we learn from these mistakes. We must watch our self-talk in our heads and focus on positive solutions. When disagreements happen, instead of yelling about it or seeing the negativity in a situation, confront it with a positive mindset; find the middle ground and show that we value one another.
- Communicate openly – A lot of the problems in our world come down to communication. If you are not sure about something, ask a question. If you have a problem, communicate it. When you have a conflict or disagreement, communicate it in person or through a phone call (not through text).
- Lead the way – If you expect others to act or perform a certain way, lead by example. The culture and character we demonstrate will be an extension of what our organization will become.
- See a need, fill a need – If you see that something needs to be done, then do it. Lead by example.
- No Complaining Rule – The no complaint rule is the idea that you are not allowed to complain about something unless you have a reasonable solution to the complaint. When we have a solution-based mindset, we accomplish great things as a team.

With our philosophy in mind, we ask for parents/guardians to be encouraging when it comes to music. Students are encouraged to practice the parts they struggle with, which means that they will not always sound their best. Please encourage your child to practice. Let them know that you can hear the improvement. Remember that any negative comment made will likely make them less motivated to get better; feed them positivity. Thank you for your help in making sure your child has the best musical experience possible.

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.)

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, such as baritone, tuba, or percussion, 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.

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. For new students, you will receive your log-in within the next few weeks. Returning 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, Sara Lee Beller at treasure@brightonband.com. 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. I will never see the student/parent numbers, and you will never see my number. To sign up:

6th Grade – Text @mayo26 to 81010

7th Grade – Text @mayo25 to 81010

8th Grade – Text @mayo24 to 81010

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 (after gym dismissal) 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. Students are not to enter the band room prior to gym dismissal in the morning without Mr. Mayo's consent. 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 or theft that occurs or may occur to band instruments during any time.

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. 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 13th at 7:00PM in the Brighton High School Band Room.

FEES: This year's band fee is \$40 for Brighton Middle School band students. The fee covers the expense of your child's band t-shirt (will be distributed in the Spring), method book, classroom supplies, and music expense. If this fee is not paid, your child will not be given a band t-shirt. This will exclude your child from participating in events requiring these items. Please make checks payable to the Brighton Band Boosters. Fee waiver does not cover the band fee. Band fees need to be paid by August 31st. If there is a problem paying the band fee on time, please email Mr. Mayo at jmayo@tipton-county.com.

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, I will be sending home performance information throughout the year. The seventh will perform the December Christmas Concert, a Spring concert, and other possible concerts throughout the year. 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, 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, and purchasing items for the overall need of the band program.

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 individuals credentials. Cheaper options may be available through studying under a successful high school or college student. The school, staff, and band program is 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. Mayo.

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

Jeffrey A. Mayo
Director, Brighton Middle School Band



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High School Band – Jonathan Findley
 Middle School Band– Jeffrey A. Mayo

Welcome to the BMS 2019-2020 school year! For our new members, welcome to the program. For our returning members, welcome back to school. We have an exciting year of music coming together for the Brighton Middle School Band. For sixth-grade students, we will spend the next few weeks testing instruments to find the instrument that students will have the highest potential for success while finding an instrument of their interest. Amro music will be having their 6th-grade instrument rental meeting at the school on August 29th at 6:00 PM in the band room. More information will come home with the student as the event approaches. For seventh and eighth grade students, we will be reviewing the fundamentals of playing an instrument over the next few weeks.

The band handbook is available online at brightonband.com. Below is an information sheet that needs to be turned in to Mr. Mayo as soon as possible. The band handbook is digital this year; the school only allows a limited number of paper copies per month, which I would rather use to provide students with music and educational resources. Please read the band handbook in its entirety and sign the form below. This year’s band fee is \$40.00, which will need to be paid by August 31st. If there are any problems paying by the due date, please inform Mr. Mayo at jmayo@tipton-county.com.

My 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 @mayo26 to 81010; 7th Grade – Text @mayo25 to 81010; 8th Grade – Text @mayo24 to 81010

If you would like to donate some classroom supplies to the band, we are in need of small magnetic locker mirrors; Please do not hesitate to email me at jmayo@tipton-county.com. Email is my primary form of communication, as I do not answer the phone while instructing classes. I am looking forward to a fantastic school year!

Student Information 2019-2020

Student Name: _____ Current grade level: _____

Guardian Name(s): _____

Instrument (7th/8th): _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Band T-Shirt size (Adult Sizes): _____

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

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

Band 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: _____