

BMS Band Information

7th & 8th grade bands are scheduled to meet on “day 1” for the 2008-2009 school year. Students will receive a grade for every class (30 possible points per class) based on their participation, preparation, and achievement. There will also be performance quizzes to ensure that students are making adequate progress. In addition, students will also receive a grade for every 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.

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. 7th & 8th grade band will meet on the second “Day 1” of each 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.

7th & 8th grade band members are expected to participate in all performances. These will include the Killingly Invitational Band Competition on Saturday, October 11, the Winter Concert, the Spring Concert, the Springtime Festival Parade, the Brooklyn Memorial Day Parade, and hopefully an adjudication festival (to be followed by a visit to Six Flags New England). In addition, 8th grade band members will perform with the Woodstock Academy Symphonic Band on their annual Pops Concert, usually held in March. **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 (see Mr. Kelleher for

details), participation in performances not listed in this newsletter, or work in the band room such as filing music.

6th grade band will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30-12:00. This is not a graded class, but students are expected to attend all rehearsals and lessons unless they have a legitimate excuse. Students who do not show a commitment to attending lessons and/or rehearsals will be asked to either renew their commitment or consider dropping out of band. A successful band depends on all members being committed to learn and grow as musicians. 6th grade band members are expected to participate in the Winter Concert and the Spring Concert. In addition, 6th grade band students are invited to audition for the BMS Marching Band which performs at the Memorial Day and Springtime Festival Parades.

Supplies and repairs

Students wishing to order supplies such as reeds, valve oil, and instrument cleaning/maintenance supplies from Rayburn Music should place their order with me (I have order forms) the day before the Rayburn representative comes (usually Thursday). I can not place the order unless the payment for supplies is given to me when the order is placed. Any checks should be made payable to Rayburn Music. Please let me know if you have any repair needs as I can fix some minor problems. If your instrument needs to be sent out for repair Rayburn Music will provide a loaner.

Performance Dates: Information regarding these performances/events will follow as soon as dates and times are available. (events with a * are optional)

- *Quinebaug Valley MS Music Festival (11/5 & 11/6)
- *Eastern Regional Music Festival auditions, Nov. 8, WestSide MS, Groton, CT
- Winter Concert (grades 6, 7, 8)
- *ERMS Festival Concert 2/27 & 2/28/08
- WA Pops Concert (grade 8) March date t.b.a
- Spring Concert (grades 5, 6, 7, 8) April 9, 7:00 p.m.
- Springtime Festival Parade (grades 6, 7, 8) May
- Brooklyn Memorial Day Parade Monday, May 25, Brooklyn Fairgrounds
- 6 Flags Adjudication Festival, Late May or early June

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://www.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) with any questions, comments, or concerns.

7th & 8th grade students are required to have their parents/guardians sign below. This must be signed and shown to Mr. Kelleher (**for a grade**) by Wednesday, September 10 .

(parent/guardian signature)

(student signature)