**8th Grade Band Information**

# August 20, 2019

Dear BJHS Eighth Grade Band Members and Parents,

Welcome back to the Band Department at Bloomington Junior High School! We are very excited about the 2019-20 school year. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an understanding of the policies and organizational structure of the BJHS Eighth Grade Band. Please read this letter in its entirety, discuss it with your family, and complete and return the last page.

**Eighth Grade Lessons and Full Band Schedule**

Students will attend 8th grade band every day from 9:48 until 10:30 a.m. Students will be pulled out of full band once per week for lessons. These lessons will *usually* occur on the following days:

“A” Days (usually Monday) – Trumpet and Clarinet lessons

“B” Days (usually Tuesday) – Flute/Oboe and Sax/Horn lessons

“C” Days (usually Wednesday) – Percussion and Low brass lessons

Lesson days are subject to change each week due to days off school, field trips, standardized testing, or other curricular factors that may affect band class.

## Performance Dates

The following are the concert dates scheduled at this time. If other performance dates are set, information will be sent home.

### Friday, September 20, 2019 – 8th Grade Night Football Game

***Meet at 6:00 p.m. at BJHS band room***

### Wednesday, November 6, 2019 - *BJHS Bands Fall Concert*

### *7:00 p.m. at BJHS East Gym*

**Tuesday, February 18, 2020 – *BJHS Bands Winter Concert***

***7:00 p.m. at BJHS East Gym***

**Friday, February 28, 2020 – *IGSMA Organizational Contest***

***Bloomington JH, Time TBA***

**Tuesday, April 7, 2020 – *5th -12th Grade Band Extravaganza***

***7 p.m. at BHS Gym***

**Monday, April 13, 2020 – *7th and 8th Grade Band Spring Concert***

***6:00 p.m. at BJHS East Gym***

**Monday, May 25, 2020 - *Memorial Day Parade***

***Meet at 7:55 a.m. at BJHS Band Room***

**Performances (continued)**

Please put these dates on your calendar at home and plan to attend. Student attendance at performances is mandatory and concerts are worth 100 points for that 9 week grading period. Emergency absences (illness, death in the family, etc.) should be called in to me as soon as possible or a note given to me (from your parents) if you were unable to call ahead of time. Non-emergency absences will be handled on an individual basis and **must be discussed with me by a parent (via phone or in writing) at least two weeks prior to the concert date.**

## Concert Dress

Each BJHS band member will need to supply the following parts of their uniform:

**Black pants –** these must be all black

**Black shoes –** these must be all black

**Black socks –** all black

A uniform jacket is supplied by the school. A plain, short- sleeved t-shirt should be worn underneath the jacket. The dress guidelines may seem strict but they ensure uniformity within the group and help make the group something of which they can be proud to be a part. If anyone is unable to obtain these items because of a financial problem, please let me or your counselor know in time to be able to help you.

## Uniform Jacket Information

We will be fitting jackets in the fall. Students take their jacket home just before a performance and will return it immediately after the performance. The student is financially responsible for the uniform while it is in their care. If a uniform jacket gets something spilled on it, DO NOT attempt to clean it or take it to the cleaners. Please return it to me stating what the uniform has on it. A parent committee cleans the jackets at the end of each school year. These uniforms are in excellent condition – please take good care of them!

## Music Books

All eighth graders will continue using Sound Innovations Ensemble Development for Intermediate Concert Band.If students are unable to find this book from last year, please purchase a new one. All books must be brought to school by Monday, August 26.

## Name Tags

All instrument cases must have name tags on them with the student’s name by **Monday, August 26**. We will start name tag checks on that day. Many cases look alike and it is easy to get them mixed up. It is also a good idea to have the serial number of the instrument at home. Free name tags are available at school upon request.

**Percussion Sticks**

8th grade percussionists are required to have the following materials in addition to their snare drum and bell kits: Stick bag, snare sticks, bells mallets, Balter 91B xylo mallets, Balter basic yarn mallets (medium), general timpani mallets, a pitch pipe, cord mallets, and staccato timpani mallets. Most of those items should have been purchased earlier, but the last two are likely new purchases for 8th grade.

I also strongly suggest that students have a nametag on their stick bags, and I have those available upon request at school. Students should also label each stick with their name or initials, as well as the different parts of their drum, bells, and stands. **Please obtain these materials no later than Monday, August 26.**

## Required materials

Students are responsible for having their **instrument**, **music,** and **appropriate accessories** for each lesson and rehearsal. This includes 2-3 good reeds for woodwind players, valve or slide oil for brass players, and **a pencil** for everyone. Keep a pencil either in the instrument case or in the band folder. Each student must also purchase a **3 prong pocket folder** (available from me for 25 cents) in order to keep a portfolio of their writing and performance assessment rubrics. If a student forgets to bring their instrument to school, they will be assigned a time before or after school to come in to make up the rehearsal time. Lack of proper reeds or neckstrap may also result in a detention.

**Lost Music**

In accordance with copyright law, students in the 8th grade band will receive original music parts from the publisher for each concert. Students who do not return this music after the concert will be charged the replacement cost, which is usually around $3-4 per piece of music.

For copied materials (unit packets and other), students will each be given two tickets at the beginning of the year. Each ticket may be exchanged for a new piece of music. If a student uses both tickets, or does not have one available, copies may also be purchased at 25 cents per item. Money collected will be used for the band program.

**Remind 101**

I am going to try to utilize the Remind 101 texting service again this year, as I know many of the 8th grade teams use this in their classes. If you would like to join this service, please text @bj8band to 81010. Standard text message rates from your cell phone carrier will apply, but the service itself is free.

## Parent Permit/Insurance Waiver Form

On the back of the last page of this packet is a Parent Permit/Insurance Waiver Form that we need to have for any band activities that are not in the regular school day.

**Please return this form also by Monday, August 26.**

## Grading Procedures

**Fine Arts Department Philosopy of Grading Practices**

*The purpose of a grade is to inform both students and parents of progress in art and music.  Grades reflect the achievement or mastery of established learning goals in the class, as well as areas where additional growth is necessary.  Students will have multiple opportunities to provide evidence of mastery towards course standards.*

**FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT (35%)**

**Creating (25%) – Rehearsal skills and fundamentals**

Students earn points for full band rehearsals by: 1) actively contributing in a positive manner 2) being on time 3) having their instrument and appropriate supplies. Each rehearsal is worth 3 points. Points may be taken away if a student’s behavior is disruptive or non-participatory. If the behavior continues, a detention may be given, seating within the ensemble may be changed, and the teacher may contact the parents. Continued discipline problems may result in removal from band.

**Responding/Connecting (10%) – writing assignments, portfolios, in-class work**

For each unit, students will be responsible for completing a written self evaluation of their performance as well as a written peer evaluation of another band member’s performance. Students do not have to play the same instrument or be playing the same benchmark test in order to partner for the peer assessment. Both the self evaluation and peer evaluation forms are included with each unit, and due dates are on the unit checklist at the beginning of each unit packet. Late work will be awarded 75% credit.

Students will also be responsible for creating a portfolio for each unit. The portfolio should contain the portfolio unit cover sheet on which the student will record his or her grades and obtain a parent signature, as well as the graded self assessment, peer assessment, and performance rubric from each unit. These items should be kept all year in a 3 prong folder, and will be collected and checked by Mrs. Carnahan after each unit has been completed.

Written homework may also include evaluations of our full band rehearsals or performances. This work will be assigned on an as needed basis each grading period.

**SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT (65%)**

**Performing (15%) – meeting attendance and other expectations at required concerts and contests**

As stated earlier, concert attendance is mandatory and each concert is worth 100 points. The band truly does depend on each member, and we count on each student being there in order to have our best possible performance! If a student is going to miss a concert due to a pre-arranged absence, that student may temporarily need to play a different part within the ensemble in order for the band to prepare for their performance. Students are expected to attend at least 75% of the rehearsals in the final three weeks before a concert, as well as be able to play their concert music proficiently. Students who cannot fulfill these expectations may be asked to sit out of the concert.

**Assessments (50%) – individual assessments, which may be written or performance based**

**Scales and Rhythm (20%)**

Students will be responsible for learning three scales per unit, and each of those scales will be worth 100 points. Students will also be responsible for clapping and counting the rhythm to their chosen benchmark for that unit (on videotape or for a teacher), and that test will be worth 50 points. Each nine-week grading period will contain one to two units.

**Benchmark and Band Music Tests (30%)**

With teacher guidance, students will choose their performance assessment (benchmark) for each unit. The student must perform this playing test in front of the video camera no later than their assigned day of the unit (students are encouraged to take the test early). The teacher will grade all videotape tests according to the rubric given to the students with each unit. There will be one to two benchmark tests per grading period.

Tests from the full band music will be graded on a different rubric, but will also fall into this grading category. Students will be assessed on sections of their full band music at least one to two weeks prior to each concert.

**RE-TAKE POLICY**

Students may re-take any performance assessment (scales, rhythm, benchmark, or band music test) to achieve a higher grade. Re-takes must take place before the end of the quarter in which the work was assigned, and must be scheduled with a teacher either before or after school. For band music tests, re-takes must take place prior to the concert.

Test re-takes must be scheduled either before or after school, or may be videotaped and emailed to Mrs. Carnahan.

The **FINAL BAND GRADE** is based on these percentages:

Creating (25%)

Performing (15%)

Responding/Connecting (10%)

Assessments (50%)

**Skyward Gradebook**

The band staff is a part of the Skyward grading system that allows parent access to their child’s grades. If you were signed up last year, you do not have to sign up again. If not, you need to log on to <http://parent.district87.org> and fill out a parent access application. You only need to fill out one form per family and list all of your children’s names.

I make every effort to update the grade book every Friday. Please feel free to contact me at any point if you have a question about your child’s grade in band!

## Class Attendance Policy

At Bloomington Junior High School, music performance classes (Band, Orchestra and Chorus) are classes taken for credit and receive a grade. Further, music performance is a participation class. Students must be in attendance to gain the knowledge and experience necessary to attain new levels of musicianship. As noted in our grading policies, part of your student’s grade is based upon his or her attendance and positive participation in class. The success of any music performance program depends upon the active and positive participation of all the members of the group. Each member plays a vital role, no matter how large or small, in the overall success and musical presentation of our groups.

If your child is in attendance at school, it is our expectation they will attend their assigned class for music performance. This attendance policy will be enforced on a yearly basis. The attendance policy will take into account excused absences such as illness, pre-arranged absences from school, field trips, etc.

Students who are in attendance at school but not in attendance for their music class will be considered truant and referred to the office for discipline.

**BJHS Instrumental Music Course Prerequisites**

To successfully participate in instrumental music, students must:

* Obtain and maintain a working instrument and the accessories associated with that instrument
* Financial assistance may be available – parents may contact instructor
* Attend class daily and participate

Students that do not meet classroom expectations may be subject to:

* Classroom or office referrals
* Parent meeting with behavior contract
* Removal from the program

Continuation in any instrumental music program for the following year is subject to successful completion of the current year and/or instructor approval.

**Seating**

Part assignments and ensemble seating are at the discretion of the director, and may include extra-musical factors such as behavior, leadership, responsibility, etc.

**Private Lessons**

It is **impossible** for us to overemphasize the positive impact of private lessons. Individual instruction is the best way to help students fulfill their potential. The main benefit of a private lesson is weekly one-one-one instruction with a specialist on the same instrument. A private instructor will immediately reinforce strengths and give specific suggestions for improvement. Please check our website or talk with us for a list of recommended private instructors if this is an advantage you wish to offer your child.

**Responsibilty**

Each member is responsible to the group for bringing their materials each day, and learning to play their music to the best of their ability. This band truly belongs to the students, and will achieve more with positive and focused efforts from every student.

Band class is different from many other classes, and we rely greatly on the responsibility and maturity of the individual students in order to function. Trust is paramount in the band room. Students need to feel comfortable to make mistakes as part of their learning experiences, and cannot be comfortable if they do not trust the teachers or other students.

Trust is also important for the equipment in our room. Students who are destructive to instruments or other band room equipment will be given detentions, referrals, or in extreme cases, may be removed from band permanently.

Students should *never* be in possession of an instrument other than their own. Even if another student gives permission, possession of another student’s instrument is unacceptable. This behavior will be considered theft, and students guilty of theft may be removed from the band program permanently.

**Home Practice**

Home practice helps make it possible to play a musical instrument to the best of one’s ability. The benefits of home practice include building self-confidence and pride in one’s performance. The recommended practice goal is 20-30 minutes a day, five days per week. However, *quality* of practice time is more important that *quantity* of practice time.

Students are expected to take instruments home every weekend, as well as during the week if possible. Students will often be required to take their instruments home for a grade on the weekends.

**Voluntary Musical Opportunites**

The Bloomington Junior High School Jazz Band is an auditioned performance group. Auditions are usually held in late September, and rehearsals are held before school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. See a band director for more details.

7th and 8th grade band students are given the opportunity to perform solos and/or ensembles at the Illinois Grade School Music Association (IGSMA) contest, which is tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 21, 2020.

Students also have the opportunity to audition for and perform in the Illinois Music Educators Association (ILMEA) Festival Concert Band. Students involved with these events are required to pay a small audition and participation fee. This year’s auditions are on Monday, October 14 here at BJHS.

## The Importance of Music

It is our goal to help you have a rewarding musical experience through band and to help you grow as a musician and person. Being in band gives you the opportunity to explore your own musical talents and skills while developing a life-long family of friends who share this artistic journey with you. Studies have shown that you will discover a high level of success in many parts of your life because of your experiences in band.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I appreciate your commitment to your child and the BJHS band program!

Sincerely,

Michele Carnahan

8th Grade Band Director, BJHS

Bloomington Junior High School

901 N. Colton St.

Bloomington, Illinois 61701

309.827.0086 x1922

[carnahanm@district87.org](mailto:carnahanm@district87.org)

**Please complete and return by Monday, August 26!**

I have read the information in this letter, dated 8/20/19, concerning performance dates, attendance, concert attire, uniform care, grading procedures, discipline, and lesson books.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(student name – please print!)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(parent signature) (student signature)

Student t-shirt size (adult sizes)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to receive e-mail communication, such as progress reports and other timely information concerning band events, please write your e-mail address(s) below.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(**parent** e-mail address – please print carefully)

I give permission for my child’s photo to be used on District 87 websites and social media.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_YES \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_NO

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The medical form on the back of this page will be used when we participate in any activity outside of the school day. Please fill it out along with the signature and information above.

**Everything is due on or before Monday, August 26**

**1. Name tag on case**

**2. The “I have read the information….” form (this page)**

**3. Insurance waiver/permit to treat form (back of this page)**

**4. A 3 prong folder and a pencil.**

**5. Bring your Sound Innovations book to class**

**6. Percussionists only – required sticks and mallets**

BLOOMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT #87 PARENT PERMIT/INSURANCE WAIVER FORM

Participant\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Last First M.I.

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The participant named above has my permission to participate in music events for Bloomington School District #87 for the 2019-2020 school year.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

# INFORMATION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN

In case of emergency, notify\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Their telephone number is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Our doctor is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, hospital of choice is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please list any type of medical information which might be needed in case of an emergency (i.e. medications participant might be taking and might have a reaction to, known medical conditions the coach/staff should be aware of, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Insurance:

Our insurance company is:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The expiration date of our current coverage is:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

District 87 is not responsible for Health Insurance Claims; and each participant must have his/her own insurance program to be eligible to participate in athletics or extracurricular activities.

In case of an emergency and I cannot be reached, I give my permission to have properly trained medical professionals treat my son/daughter.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date Parent/Guardian Signature

Additional Information:

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