

Burnet Middle School Band Handbook



**BURNET
BAND**

2023-2024

Dear Band Parents,

Welcome! We are very excited that your child is in the Burnet Middle School Band Program. Your child is either beginning their seven-year journey or continuing through band. It all starts here! It is our goal to not only create great musicians, but to create great human beings. Using music as an instrument, no pun intended, we aim to craft good citizens, kind people, and individuals who enjoy creating music.

Through the challenges each student undergoes, band will continually challenge and push each student to become better. We hope our band becomes a family of sorts where students constantly feel welcome and secure.

Through this handbook, we hope to deliver all of the information you will need for your child to participate in the Burnet Middle School Band Program! From rules and expectations, to performance attire and performances, there is a lot of information. Therefore, please read through it carefully.

We look forward to an amazing year.

Sincerely,

Marcos Cordova, Band Director
Brad Jones, Assistant Band Director
Burnet Middle School

Joseph Cox, Director of Bands
Jacob Picht, Assistant Director
Michael Ollman, Assistant Director - Percussion
Burnet High School

Band Expectations

Commitment

Band is a full year commitment. We expect each student to spend at least one full year with our program and we strive for students to spend the six following years in band with us. If your child ever desires to leave the band, have a conversation with a band director. If there is something we can do to encourage your child to stick with it, we would love the opportunity to do so.

Band Hall Rules

- 1: If a band director is talking, you are not.
- 2: If it's not yours, don't touch it.
- 3: No food, gum, or drink allowed in the band hall, except water.
4. Be respectful of your instrument.
5. Have fun!

Burnet Band Keys to Success:

1. Do what's right
2. Own your mistakes
3. You are not the exception to the rule
4. Results not Excuses

Attendance

Any event marked as "required" means that all students related must attend. Examples of required events are Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, UIL Contest, etc. Attendance at these events are also a portion of your child's grade. Please plan accordingly.

At-Home Practice

It is expected that all students, regardless of age or instrument, practice at home multiple days per week. It is understandable that students' outside involvements take time as well. We would like our students to begin to develop a solid practice routine. If each student practices even just 15 minutes a day, they will see marked improvement in their playing. We would also like the students to see that as they improve on their instrument, they will have more fun playing.

Practice Logs

Students will be expected to log their practice time each week on sheets that we will hand out each week. We will set a goal number of minutes each week and the sheet will be due in the tray at the start of each class Monday. Each new sheet will be handed out Monday as well.

Entering the Band Hall

When you enter the band hall your voice will be off as soon as your feet hit the carpet. We will need to get started with our classes once the tardy bell rings, so move silently and quickly when getting ready for class.

BMS Ensembles

Beginner Band

This is the first ensemble each band member must be a part of. It is the introductory band course. It teaches the fundamental reading of music, playing your instrument, and playing in large and small groups. The main assignments within beginner band are:

1. Practice logs

The sheets where practice time and content is recorded and turned in each week.

2. Playing Tests

These happen during class. Most of the time, the students will be preparing for a week or more for a playing test. Other times, playing tests will happen like a pop quiz, depending on each director's structure of the class.

3. Concerts

These are the large test grades given each semester. The Christmas Concert and the Spring Concert are the main events during this first year.

Symphonic Band

This group is the first of the 7th and 8th grade ensembles. Mr. Jones will be their primary director. They will play at some pep rallies, Concerts, and the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest. If a student wishes, they can audition for the ATSSB All-Region band in December

Wind Ensemble

This is the “varsity” ensemble at BMS. It moves much faster and will play a higher difficulty of music. Mr. Cordova will be their primary director. They will perform at some pep rallies, Concerts, the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest, and all members are highly encouraged to audition for the ATSSB All-Region Band in December

6-Week Objectives

Every six weeks we will be passing out an objective sheet that will keep track of what we are working on in class. These objective sheets will need to be signed by a parent/guardian once all of the objectives have been completed for a final grade.

Grades

Grades for each ensemble will be split the same. However, each ensemble will have different assignments that fit under each grade category. The categories are:

Minor (50%)

- Class Participation – Following rules, paying attention, responding to questions, and having instrument and materials every day of class.
- Preparation – Weekly objectives, any outside of class assignments, any playing assignments, and practice logs

Major (50%)

- Performance Attendance – Concerts, contests, Pep Rallies, etc.
- Playing Tests – Written or played tests given at the discretion of the directors.

HOW TO MAKE AN ‘A’ IN BAND:

1. Bring your materials every day.
2. Pay attention in class.
3. Practice.
4. Show up to concerts or other events.

Performances

Each ensemble will perform at different performances (see the calendar). All performances are mandatory for each student in that ensemble. Please put them in your phone calendar or on the fridge to avoid any conflicts later. **If, for some emergency reason, (severe illness, family emergency, etc.) your child cannot make a performance, an email must be sent to the director as soon as you are able.** A full week written notice of all non-emergent conflicts will be required. The absence will be deemed excused at the discretion of the director and a make-up assignment will be issued at that time.

Performance Attire

- Ladies – Formal Black Gown (provided by BMS), **black flats**, and **black leggings** (optional) **provided by the student.**
- Gentlemen – Black vest and tie (provided by BMS), **black slacks**, **white dress shirt**, **black dress shoes**, and **a belt all provided by the student.**

Some students may wear their BMS Band T-shirt and jeans for some performances (when directors say so.)

Beginner Band will wear their band t-shirt and jeans to all performances.

Trips

There is a band trip at the end of each school year to a theme park or other entertainment venue. This is a celebration time for band kids. Here are the details regarding trips:

- They are subject to eligibility. Meaning, your child can lose the privilege of attending the trip for grades or disciplinary reasons. Ex: ISS, any grade under 70
- Dress code to amusement parks must adhere to the BMS Code of Conduct. This includes bathing suits.
- Students are to behave the entire trip, including the bus ride to and from the park. If a student behaves inappropriately, they are at risk of not attending future band trips. All school rules will apply.
- More information regarding the end of year band trip will be provided as we get closer to the trip.

Trip Eligibility Guidelines

We would like all BMS Band students to have the opportunity to join us on our spring trip, but on this trip the students represent the Burnet Band and the Burnet Community as a whole and therefore we want to make sure they will represent our school and community with Spirit, Pride, and Honor. The following list shows specific ways that students may lose trip eligibility:

Low participation in class, 4 or more days in ISS, any trip to DAEP, misbehavior in other classes.

Please also note that other extenuating circumstances may lead to a student losing trip privileges or be subject to Assistant Principal approval.

Eligibility

If a student receives below a 70 on their report card in any class, they are deemed academically ineligible. This means, they will not be able to participate in certain activities, including band contests and extra-curricular trips. A student can regain eligibility if their grades are passing by the progress report following a failing grade.

All band contests and trips are affected by eligibility. The Christmas and Spring Concerts are NOT affected by eligibility. All students must attend these.

Instruments

Instrument Purchases

Burnet Middle School works alongside Strait Music Company and Tarpley Music Company to purchase instruments and supplies at very reasonable prices. For flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion, it is best for students entering band to purchase their own instrument. They are affordable and will be of great quality!

If you have any questions about purchasing an instrument, please contact Strait Music Company in Austin, Texas or Tarpley Music. Make sure to mention your child attends Burnet Middle School in Burnet, Texas. There is a Burnet MS in Austin so make sure you mention you're in Burnet, TX.

*If there is a financial reason you are unable to purchase an instrument, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Cordova at mcordova@burnetcisd.net

Instrument Rentals

Students who play oboe, bassoon, horn, euphonium, tuba, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, and baritone saxophone will be playing on instruments provided by Burnet Middle School. All students who play these instruments are required to submit a rental agreement which is attached to the Band Handbook. Alongside this, if your child plays oboe, bassoon, horn, euphonium, tuba, and percussion within the UIL bands, there will be an additional usage fee that must be paid to pay for any repairs or maintenance.

Home Instruments

Students who play horn, euphonium, and tuba will have two instruments assigned to them. One will stay at school. The other will stay at home. All home instruments must be picked up by the parents the first week of school and returned by instrument turn-in day in May.

Instrument Repairs

All school-owned instrument repairs, barring significant damage, will be paid by the school. If the damage is significant or intentional, the student can be held responsible. Personal instruments will be sent to Strait Music for repair. If you wish to send the instrument to another repair location, please inform the band director at the beginning of the school year. If you have a rental agreement through Strait Music, all repairs are free. If you do not, you will be contacted by Strait Music with the cost of the instrument repair before it is repaired. If you fail to contact Strait Music within one week, the instrument will be sent back to the school without repairs being done.

Finances

Band Fees

Each year, all students are required to pay certain fees. The amount depends on the instrument your child plays, any supplies they may need, and their grade. Here is a list of expenses:

Band Fee: \$30 (Paid by ALL Band students)

- Pays for band binder, binder supplies, and t-shirt.

Instrument Rental: \$50

- Students who play oboe, bassoon, horn, euphonium, tuba, and percussion.
- **Students who rent any other instrument from the school.**

Band Placement

At the end of each school year, an audition occurs for every BMS Band Student. These auditions will determine which ensemble 6th and 7th graders will be placed in the following year. Auditions have three portions, all weighed equally.

1. Solo/Ensemble Performance
2. Etude and Scale Test
3. Director Evaluation

Band placement is subject to change for various reasons. All band placement changes are at the band director's discretion.

Private Lessons

Students are encouraged to take private lessons. They are not required, however, students who take private lessons progress much faster and end up more successful than those who do not.

Lessons will mostly be held virtually over Zoom or Google Meets. Each lesson will cost a certain amount, depending on the teacher. All payment is due at the time of the lesson. All money is paid to the lesson teacher, not the band director.

If you are going to be absent from a lesson, it is the responsibility of the parent to contact the private instructor at least 24 hours in advance.

To sign up for private lessons, contact Mr. Cordova at mcordova@burnetcisd.net

Communication

One of the most important aspects for the success of our band program will be communication. We will always make an effort to communicate everything that is going on in the band program in a timely manner. If there is ever a change to any of our plans, we will make every effort to communicate that information. Please see our email information below and don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Email

Please make sure you have provided an updated email address to the band directors in order to receive our email notifications. We will send out group emails with important information weekly.

You are free to email us at any time with questions or concerns.

Mr. Cordova: mcordova@burnetcisd.net

Mr. Jones: bjones@burnetcisd.net

We hope your child loves being in band and learns to enjoy playing music. Band is challenging at times and it's through these challenging situations that kids grow and become better individuals. All of the band staff desire for your child to grow as a musician and an individual. We look forward to a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Marcos Cordova

mcordova@burnetcisd.net

Brad Jones

bjones@burnetcisd.net

PARENT/STUDENT BMS BAND HANDBOOK FORM AGREEMENT

Please read and sign below as indicated:

Students –

I have read the Burnet Middle School Handbook and understand the requirements for being a band member of this quality organization. I realize it takes great effort and responsibility to live up to my fullest potential. I also realize that my failure to follow policies and directions could lead to disciplinary action resulting in placement in another band or dismissal from the band program altogether. As a member of the Burnet Middle School Band, I acknowledge the following as responsibilities I must fulfill if I wish to remain a member.

I will:

- Be punctual and prepared for class and sectional rehearsals
- Practice with a purpose every week
- Demonstrate my best on playing assignments and written theory tests
- Attend all required band functions
- Treat my peers, teachers, facilities, and myself with respect and maintain appropriate conduct
- Maintain my grades for eligibility and self-achievement
- Have a high standard for improvement in class and on my own

Print Student Name

X

Student Signature

Date

Parents-

I have read the BMS Handbook and want to support it and my child.

X

Parent Signature

Date

Phone #

Address, City, Zip Code

Email Address