

Burnet Middle School Band Handbook



2021-2022

Dear Band Parents,

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

Through this handbook, we hope to deliver all the information you will need for your child to participate in band. From rules and expectations to attire and performances, there is a lot of information. Please read through it carefully! Attached to the handbook is the BMS Band Calendar for your use. Note the events that are required for attendance. These are of high importance. Plan for your child to be there now. This will spare any confusion later.

Finally, once you have read through the handbook, please sign the attached Handbook Form and return it to your child's band director. This way, we all are on the same page! As always, please let us know if you have any concerns or questions. We look forward to an amazing year.

Sincerely,

Emily Hicks and Brad Jones, Burnet Middle School Band Directors

Andrew Hicks, Ian Young and Joseph Cox, Burnet High School Band Directors

Band Expectations

Commitment

Band is a seven-year journey. From sixth grade through senior year of high school, band is a long-term commitment. We expect that each student will give their all and have a great time! If there is ever a moment where your child desires to leave the band program, please talk with the band directors. There is almost always a solution that makes everyone happy and allows the student to stay in band.

Band Hall Rules

- 1: If a band director is talking, you are not
Rehearsal is silent and you must raise your hand and be called on in order to speak
- 2: If it's not yours, don't touch it.
- 4: No food, gum, or drink allowed in the band hall, except water.
5. You are not the exception to the rules.

Understood Rules (Rules that apply everywhere.):

1. Respect others regardless of your opinion of them.
2. Take pride in our band. This includes the spaces we practice.
3. No bad-mouthing other students, teachers, or organizations. Ever.
4. Never accept less than your very best.
5. Go practice!

Attendance

Any event marked as "required" means that all students related must attend. Examples of required events include the Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, UIL Contest, and the San Antonio Contest. Attendance at these events is 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. A target time per week is one hour or more. This can be spread out over multiple days or all in one day. Regardless, this at-home practice is a huge factor in how well your child and the entire band performs.

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. Weekly Objectives

These are weekly assignments given to students based on class exercises and activities.

These will be performed during class or by submitting a recording through Google Classroom or other electronic classroom program.

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 the 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 is the first 7th and 8th grade band after Beginner Band. It is a group of students who perform their own concert with the full band. They will be given individualized attention throughout the year and this group does attend the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest. If a student wishes, they can audition for the ATSSB All-Region band in November. Alongside this, all Symphonic Band students will attend sectional practices as a part of their grade.

Wind Ensemble

This is the “varsity” ensemble at BMS. It moves much faster and will play music with a higher level of difficulty. They will perform at all pep rallies, Concerts, the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest, the San Antonio Director’s Choice Contest, and all members are expected to audition for the ATSSB All-Region Band in the fall. Alongside this, all Wind Ensemble students will attend sectional practices as a part of their 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:

Daily Grades (50%)

- Class Participation – Following rules, active and meaningful participation in class, responding to questions, and having instruments and materials every day of class.
- Preparation – Weekly objectives, any outside of class assignments, Sectional attendance

Test Grades (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. Actively and meaningfully participate in class daily
3. Practice
4. Show up to concerts or other events

It really is THAT simple. As a general rule, if your child is making below an "A," one of the four categories above is in need of attention.

Sectionals

Students in Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble will have one sectional practice each week. The time will be determined after the start of the school year. These are mandatory and a portion of your child's grade for the week.

Performances

Each ensemble will have multiple performances each year (check the calendar). All performances (concerts, contests) 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, your child cannot make a performance, an email must be sent to the director 24 hours before the start of the concert.** The absence will be

deemed excused at the discretion of the director. A make-up assignment will be issued at that time.

Performance Attire, also known as Concert Black Attire

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

Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band: Concert Black for all concerts and UIL; band t-shirt and jeans for pep rallies

Beginner Band: band t-shirt and jeans to all performances.

Trips

There is a band trip at the end of each school year to a theme or water park. This is a time of celebration for band students. 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.
- 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 being sent home early and not attending future band trips.

Chaperones

We want and need as many chaperones on hand as possible! If you would like to chaperone any trip, please send an email to a band director.

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 to purchase instruments and supplies at very reasonable prices. For flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, and trombone, 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. Make sure to mention your child attends Burnet Middle School in Burnet, Texas.

Instrument Rentals

Students who play oboe, bassoon, horn, euphonium, tuba, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, and percussion 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, there will be an additional usage fee of \$50 to pay for annual maintenance and repair.

Home Instruments

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

Instrument Repairs

All rental 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 mostly on the instrument your child plays. 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

Supplies

Each item will be billed to the student when they are given supplies as needed.

Clarinet and All Saxophone Reeds: Free

Oboe and Bassoon Reeds: Free

Cleaning Swab: \$5

Valve Oil: \$5

Slide Grease: \$5

Replacement Binder: \$5

Replacement T-Shirt: 10

*Oils and grease will be provided for students. If a student wishes to purchase their own, pricing is listed above.

*Reeds are provided free of charge for all students

Beginner Supply Packs: Every student in beginner band must purchase a supply pack through Strait Music that includes their mouthpiece and cleaning supplies. The cost of this pack will vary depending on the instrument your child plays. Pricing is available through Strait Music.

If finances are a concern, please contact a band director as there are a variety of ways to get fees paid. We do not want your child to miss out on band because of money.

Fundraisers

Money earned through fundraisers will be added to your child's band account to pay for band fees.

Band Raffle:

Starting within the first few weeks of school, the annual band raffle lasts until October. If your child sells fifty raffle tickets, their \$30 band fee is waived from your account.

Brochure and Chocolate Sales:

These fundraisers are done in the spring. They are used to help raise funds for band trips. Information will be shared about spring fundraisers close to their start dates.

Remember, your child is responsible for collecting and turning in all money for fundraisers. They will be responsible for all sales.

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 weighted 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, but it's important to note that students who take private lessons tend to progress much faster and achieve at higher levels than those who do not.

Lessons are mostly held in the band hall during band class. However, some lessons must be scheduled before or after school. Lesson costs depend on the experience level of the instructor. All payment is due at the time of the lesson. Any amount left unpaid is subject to a late fee. If a student fails to pay for multiple lessons, they will not be allowed to take a lesson until all debt is paid. All money is paid to the lesson teacher directly, 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. Jones at bjones@burnetcisd.net

Communication

In an effort to make sure every parent is on the same page, we will use a variety of communication platforms, Here are the methods of communication:

Band Website

burnetband.com is where you can find all the information you'll need for all things Burnet Band! All BMS information is under the middle school tab.

Facebook

Find us on Facebook, where we will regularly post announcements and reminders, under Burnet Middle School Band, or the hashtag @BurnetMSBand

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.

Please email us at any time with questions or concerns!

Mrs. Hicks: ehicks@burnetcisd.net

Mr. Jones: bjones@burnetcisd.net

Phone

The band directors will communicate via phone if information is urgent or sensitive. If you would like to speak with a director on the phone, we recommend emailing to schedule a phone conference as voicemail is difficult to check throughout the day. To reach us by phone, call (512) 756-4587 or the middle school front office.

Cut Time

We use a program called Cut Time that helps keep record of all financial statements and fundraisers, etc. We also use it to send email reminders and announcements. So if you see emails from Cut Time, they are from us!

Parent Volunteers

There are multiple events happening throughout the year where we need parent volunteers. If you are ever interested in chaperoning a trip, fitting dresses, or helping with day-to-day needs, please contact Mrs. Hicks or Mr. Jones and fill out a volunteer form on the Burnet CISD website.

**“Success is a JOURNEY,
not a DESTINATION.”**

We hope your child loves band and learns to enjoy playing music. Band is difficult at times and it's through difficult or 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 citizen. We look forward to another great year!

Sincerely,

Emily Hicks
ehicks@burnetcisd.net

Brad Jones
bjones@burnetcisd.net

Burnet Middle School Band Calendar of Events

August

- 23rd: Raffle Fundraiser
- 24th: UIL Bands Parent Meeting, 6-7 pm

September

- 22nd: Band Fees Due **all band members**

October

- 22nd: UIL Bands Night @ Burnet High School Stadium

November

- 6th: All-Region Auditions
- 12th: Fall Field Trip (TBD)
- 13th: All-Region Concert

December

- 7th: Winter Concert @ Burnet High School

February

- 17th: Pre-UIL Festival @ Burnet High School

March

- 1st and 2nd: UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest @ BHS Auditorium

April

- 8th: Wind Ensemble performs at Lila Cockrell Theater

May

- UIL Bands Spring Trip: TBD
- 12th: Spring Concert **includes beginners
- 20th: Pride of Texas Festival **beginners only**

****This list may be altered as the year progresses! Changes will be communicated as they occur. The website will be updated as well!****

BMS BAND TRAVEL PERMISSION SLIP
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY AND PERMISSION FOR
STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIP

I, _____ (*parent*), agree to allow my child,
_____ (*child's name*), to travel with a group or individual
associated with Burnet CISD. This release applies to all band trips in which my student is involved
(subject to student eligibility for each trip).

By signing this document, I acknowledge that any behavior by the above-named student deemed
unacceptable, immoral, or in violation of the Student Code of Conduct by the school faculty will
result in the immediate removal from the current activity and my student will be sent home.

I understand that while student safety is a high priority for the District, under state law, the school
is not responsible for medical costs associated with a student injury.

In the case of an emergency, I authorize a Burnet CISD representative to seek out immediate care
and treatment for my child and to accompany my child in an emergency vehicle if needed. I
expressly waive all claims for medical expenses, loss of services, or other claims, and I agree to
indemnify and hold harmless the District, its Board members, employees, and agents from all
claims made against it or them on behalf of my child. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the
District, its Board members, employees, and agents from all claims made by third parties against it
or them which result from my child's actions on the trip. I understand that the District, its Board
members, employees, and agents are not waiving any sovereign or governmental immunity which
it or they have under Texas law. The parent will be immediately notified of any emergency.

I have read and understood this release and sign it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its
significance.

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

List all allergies of the student:

- _____
- _____
- _____

List any medications the student is presently taking

Medication	Purpose
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

List any other pertinent facts or surgeries about student's health:

In case of emergency, contact parent/guardian at:

_____	_____	_____	_____
Name	Home #	Cell #	Work #

Insurance Information:

_____	_____
Name of Provider	Primary name on policy

_____	_____	_____
Policy Number	Group Number	Parent/Guardian Signature

BMS BAND PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK AGREEMENT FORM

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 work
- 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

Student Shirt Size

X

Student Signature

Date

Parents-

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

X

Parent Signature

Date

Phone #

Address, City, Zip Code

Email Address