

BETHEL MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS BAND HANDBOOK

Bryant Bands Mission Statement:

To Provide the opportunity for all students to experience and feel success in instrumental music through the acquiring of musical skills, rehearsals, individual practice, performance, listening, and both individual and corporate competitions. The program will provide the education of social and life-skills as part of the total experience of being a participant in the band ensemble.

The primary focus of the program is on musical improvement and the attainment of excellence through performance, the teaching of life-skills, and character development.



Welcome to the Bethel Middle School Band program! It is going to be a wonderful year! We are looking forward to working with each of you. Please take the time to read through the Bethel Band Handbook. Each parent and student is required to sign the back page of the handbook, fill out a drug testing consent form and a student information sheet. If you have any questions at any time during the year, please feel free to contact us!

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COURSE OFFERINGS

Beginning Band

Beginning Band is open to all sixth grade students. Seventh and Eighth grade students may take this course with prior approval from the directors. Beginning Band classes meet one class period per day and are grouped by like instruments. Students will learn the basics of their chosen instruments, which will include hand position, proper breathing techniques, music theory, music reading skills and tone production. Students will have full band performances that will include concerts at Christmas, mid-Winter and Spring. Solo and ensemble competition will also be held in March of each year.

Concert Band

The Concert band is for students in grades 7 and 8 who have successfully completed the beginning band course. This is an ability-grouped ensemble. Students are placed in this band based on performance from the previous year and will be working on re-enforcing fundamental musical skills. This band will perform at several Bethel football games and concerts throughout the year as well as solo and ensemble contest. If the directors feel this group is ready, they will participate in the region concert band and sight-reading assessment in March. Students will work on individual and corporate musical skills, which will include scales, all-region music, solos and ensembles as well as band literature.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic band is for students in grades 7 and 8 who have successfully completed the beginning band course. This is an ability-grouped ensemble. Students are placed in this band based on performance from the previous year and show advanced musical abilities. This band will perform at several Bethel football games and concerts throughout the year. They will participate in the region concert band and sight-reading assessment in March as well as the individual all-region band auditions in December. Students will continue to work on individual and corporate musical skills, which will include scales, all-region music, solos, ensembles, as well as upper level band literature.

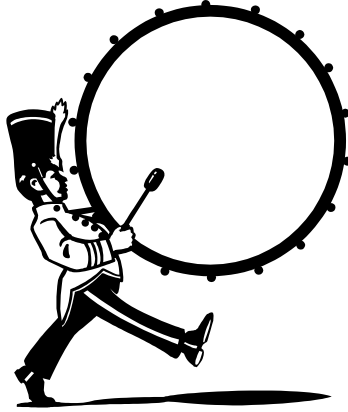
ELIGIBILITY

Beginning Band – all students are eligible to participate in beginning band.

Concert and Symphonic Bands – Students must meet the grade point requirements as set forth by the Arkansas Activities Association. Students must maintain a GPA of 1.8 to be eligible to participate.

Each student and their parents must sign a “drug testing consent form” to be eligible to participate as well. This is also a requirement of the Arkansas Activities Association.

All participation rules set forth in the Bethel Middle School Handbook will also be adhered to.



UNIFORMS

Each student will be required to purchase a Bethel Band T-shirt.

Beginning band students will wear these t-shirts with a pair of jeans as their uniform.

Students in the Concert and Symphonic bands will wear band t-shirts, black slacks, black socks and black shoes. No Black jeans, please.

FUNDRAISING

There will be one band fund-raiser taking place each semester. Monies raised will go into the band activity account and will be used for things for the students such as award parties, fees, extra supplies, instrument repairs, music, etc.

There will also be opportunities provided for students to raise money to attend summer band camp provided by the Bethel Band Parents group. These will be held during the second semester. All profits from these fundraising activities go into the band parent account and will be used for band camp. Only students participating in these specific fund raising activities will be eligible to receive these funds for camp.

AWARDS

Band Students of the Week – Each week, two beginning band students, one concert band student and one symphonic band student will be selected as “Bethel Band Students of the Week”. Students will have their names posted outside the main doors to the music facilities and receive a goody bag.

Band Students of the Quarter – Each 9 week period, six students from the band program will be chosen as “Band Students of the Quarter”. Students will have a pizza party during lunch with directors as receive other prizes.

End of Year Awards – Several awards are given at the end of the school year. Some are presented during the school awards assembly and some are given at the final band concert.

These awards are in the form of plaques and trophies and represent a yearlong effort on the part of the student.

BAND ROOM RULES

- 1. Enter the band facilities quietly and orderly. This includes the instrument storage room.**
- 2. Put instruments, folders and other materials in your specified area.**
- 3. Each instrument must have a nametag.**
- 4. No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the band facilities.**
- 5. Students should come to class with...**
 - **Instrument**
 - **All supplies for your instrument (reeds, valve oil, etc.)**
 - **music/folder/book/flip folder/lyre**
 - **pencils**
 - **3-ring binder with 4 dividers**
- 6. Always be on time. This means in your seat with all of your equipment at specified time each day. School handbook procedures will be followed for tardies.**
- 7. All performances are mandatory. Performances are what we work toward. Please check your calendars early for conflicts and discuss them with a director as soon as you realize there may be a problem. Grades are given for all performances.**
- 8. Profanity, put downs, rough housing or horseplay will not be allowed in the band room or facilities.**
- 9. Respect the directors and substitute teachers.**
- 10. Respect other students.**
- 11. Respect our facilities and equipment.**
- 12. Respect yourself.**



GRADING POLICIES

Each individual classroom teacher will handle grading. Each teacher will provide parents and students with timely feedback on classroom performance will post grades to Pinnacle as soon as possible. Practice records, written worksheets, daily class participation and performances will all be included in these grades. Each teacher will hand out a class syllabus at the beginning of each 9-week period. Please check Pinnacle each week to make sure your child is turning in assignments and practice records. If a question arises, please contact the teacher immediately.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Disciplinary procedures set forth in the Bethel Student Handbook will be followed. Parents will be contacted by telephone or e-mail as soon as a problem arises. This way, we can all work together to resolve any conflicts and make sure each student is on track for optimal musical/academic success.