

**BETHEL MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS
BAND HANDBOOK**

Bryant Band 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 and Spring. Solo and ensemble competition will also be held during the second semester of the school year.

Fundamental Concert Band

The Fundamental Concert band is for students in grades 7 & 8 who have not passed the band BENCHMARK for the beginning band course or second year band students. Students are placed in this band based on performance from the previous year and will be working on re-teaching and re-enforcing fundamental musical skills. This band will perform at all 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, solos and ensembles as well as band literature.

Concert Band

The Concert band is for students in grades 7 who have successfully passed the band BENCHMARK for 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 up to two 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 grade 8 who have successfully passed the band BENCHMARK for second year band students. 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 up to two 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.

Fundamental, Concert and Symphonic Bands – Students must meet the grade point requirements as set forth by the Arkansas Activities Association and Bryant Schools. Students must maintain a GPA of 2.0 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

Beginning Band - 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.

Fundamental, Concert and Symphonic Bands – Each student will be required to purchase a Bethel Band Polo shirt. Students in the Fundamental, Concert and Symphonic bands will wear band Polo 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 each beginning band director will select a beginning band student and each band director will select one student from each of their bands to be named 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.



Behavioral Expectations and Consequences

1. Enter the band facilities quietly and orderly and begin getting prepared.
2. Put instruments, folders and other materials in your specified area.
3. Always play with good posture, instrument position and embouchure.
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.)
 - pencils
 - 3-ring binder to hold music and/or book
6. Never handle another person’s instrument. This includes percussion sticks.
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. Twenty percent of your grade is based on performances.
8. Treat everyone with respect and maintain a positive attitude. It’s more FUN this way!
9. Leave area clean and clear with stand and chair put into correct positions.

The consequences for interfering with our learning process are:

- Student is asked to correct behavior
- If a reminder is needed the student will be moved or asked to pack up their instrument
- Conference with student after which they may call home
- Parent/teacher conference about the situation
- Administrative assistance and input
- Discipline Referral Report, EMD, Band EMD

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.