



## *Bellefonte Area Middle School Band*

*Miss Brenna Bixler, Director*

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Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 Bellefonte Area Middle School Band! I am very excited to be working with you this year. Please read all of this information together and keep this syllabus as a reference to use throughout the year. This packet is also posted in the google classroom. This syllabus is designed to answer a lot of your questions.

Music is an enriching experience for everyone involved, whether as performers or members of an audience. Along with musical skills necessary to become a performer, students will learn skills through music that benefit them beyond the program, including abstract thinking, problem solving, sense of community, heightened sense of responsibility, and teamwork.

As parents, you need not know anything about music to provide a positive influence for your child. Support them by helping them track and record their practice time and efforts. Ask them to perform a favorite piece, or something new that they are learning. Practice should never be just putting in time, but always with a specific goal of improving. Like any skill, interest and effort are far more important than talent. Your interest in their playing will help guarantee their success.

Below is some information that you should know about the BAMS Band program, including expectations and grading. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Brenna Bixler

## Homework Expectations

Consistent practice is the most important component to learning how to play an instrument. ***In order to demonstrate steady progress on your instrument, and in order to receive full credit for your practicing, you need to practice at least 100 minutes a week (for example - 25 minutes 4 days a week, or 20 minutes 5 days a week) and bring your practice chart to your lesson filled out and signed.*** The more you focus on concepts that we discuss in lessons during your practicing, the more benefits you will gain from your practicing. Putting in extra practice time can really help you improve, as long as you stay focused and practice what we discuss in our lessons. Try to use your practice time as well as you can. Band is an easy A as long as you come to lessons and bring your signed practice chart with you each cycle.

## Grading (Will be explained in detail below)

Lessons	60 points
Rehearsals	60 points
Performances	<u>20 points</u>
	140 Total

## Lessons (Individual or Small Group Instruction- 60 points per marking period)

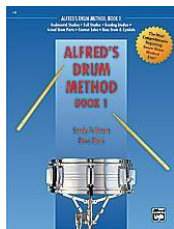
In order to maintain steady progress on your instrument, you will have one small-group lesson per 6-day cycle. Lessons are held during the school day for a full class period.

The cycle day of your lesson will be consistent throughout the year, but the period of your lessons will rotate. This way, you won't keep missing the same class. You will need to look at your lesson schedule to know what day and time your lessons are. You will receive a new lesson schedule each month. These are also posted in the google classroom.

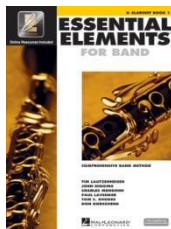
## Students will need...

All Percussionists: Alfred Drum Method Book 1 by Sandy Feldstein and David Black

All Other Students (Woodwinds and Brass): Essential Elements Book 1, Book 2, or Book 3 depending on where you ended the year with Miss Zimmerman or me last year. We will pick up right where you left off. New students will begin with Essential Elements Book 1. You can buy these books anywhere you would like. Robert M. Sides in State College should have them in stock. You can also find them many places online, such as Amazon and eBay. Other supplies to think about include reeds (3 hardness, juno is a great brand), cork grease, valve oil, cleaning cloth (woodwinds), interior cleaning snake (brass). Please email me if you have questions about equipment.



Percussion Book



Woodwind/Brass Book



Reeds



Valve Oil



Cleaning Snake

Unless your lesson day is day 6, the due date of your lesson in the gradebook will not read as the same date as your actual lesson. This is because the gradebook program will not allow different due dates to be entered for different students.

You will be graded on 6 lessons per marking period. **Teachers will excuse you from class for lessons. It is your responsibility to let your teacher know you have a lesson at the beginning of the period. If you forget your lesson or do not turn in an absence card, it will be recorded in the gradebook as a zero. There are two excuses for missing a lesson - absence from school or if your teacher decides to hold you from your lesson for a large test or major project. These are the only reasons you can schedule a makeup lesson. A lesson absence card (provided in the band room) must be turned in within two school days after the missed lesson in order to schedule a makeup.** I understand that everyone forgets once in a while. This is why I offer a lot of extra credit. This is all explained in the extra credit section.

**Each student will receive a practice chart. If your chart is not filled out with a parent signature at your lesson, you will not receive credit for practicing. The only excuses for not practicing are having a broken instrument, being sick, or being on vacation.**

Attendance	5 points
Homework (1 point per every 20 minutes)	<u>5 points</u>
	10 Total

**Rehearsals** (Large Group Instruction- approximately 60 points per marking period)

Rehearsal will occur during 9th period. 7th and 8th graders will have rehearsal three days a cycle (days 1, 3, and 5) and 6th graders will have rehearsal two days a cycle (days 2 and 4). Students should bring all of their materials to take home (backpack, chromebook, etc.) to rehearsal so that they will not need to return to their locker before dismissal at the end of the school day.

Rehearsals are a scheduled class, so you do not need any special passes to come to rehearsals.

Positive Group Contribution (You must have your instrument to contribute)	8 points per cycle
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**Performances** (approximately 20 points per marking period)

All band students are expected to attend and perform at the concerts that we present throughout the school year. Students should arrive 30 minutes before the concert begins. These concerts are tentatively scheduled for:

Fall Concert	Wednesday, October 12th at 7:30, students arrive at 7:00
Winter Concert	Wednesday, December 14th at 7:30, students arrive at 7:00
March Concert	Tuesday, March 14th at 7:30, students arrive at 7:00
Spring Concert	Wednesday, May 24th at 7:30, students arrive at 7:00

**Marching Band** (Extra-Curricular: No points)

Marching Band is an extra-curricular activity in which all band members are encouraged to participate.

This is a basic introduction to marching band skills and techniques.

Uniform for marching band performances is red top, jeans (no rips), and sneakers.

Students can sign up for marching band season in the google classroom.

Rehearsals and performances are as follows:

**Rehearsals (Thursdays September 15th, 22nd, and 29th)**

We will meet at the middle school band room from 3:20-5:30. Students should wear sneakers and clothing they are comfortable marching in.

**Varsity Football Game/ Band Buddy Night Friday, September 30th at 7:00pm**

We will walk up to the high school after school is over and have dinner with the high school band. We will be joining the high school band to perform before the game and during the first half. The middle school students will be allowed to leave following half time.

**Bellefonte Homecoming Parade Date and Time TBD**

We will meet on the playground area at the Bellefonte Elementary School.

*Please do not bring your case!* Your parents can meet you to pick you up at the middle school.

**Bellefonte Halloween Parade Date and Time TBD**

Every year the marching band plays in the Annual Halloween Parade in Bellefonte. We will meet at the YMCA in Bellefonte. Students should dress in a costume that will allow them to play their instruments.

**Newsletter**

About once a week, I send out a ***newsletter via email to parents*** containing program information. If you do not receive an email from me within the first two weeks of school, please email me at [bbixler@basd.net](mailto:bbixler@basd.net) to let me know and I will add you to our list!

**Extra Credit** (approximately 30 points possible per marking period)

There are three ways to earn extra credit.

Attend a concert and turn the program in	5 points
Practice extra (1 point per 20 min.)	15 points
Take a bonus lesson during the last cycle	<u>10 points</u>
	30 Total

**Add/Drop Procedure**

Students will automatically have ensembles added to their schedules based on their participation last school year. To drop, a note from the parent/guardian to the director of the ensemble is required. The director will then contact the student's guidance counselor and administration for approval. If a student drops an ensemble within the first week of a marking period, the student will receive no grade for the course. After the one-week deadline has passed, the student's current grade (at the point of the drop) will be recorded on his/her final report card.