

Bradley Middle School Bands
Band Handbook
2013-2014



Bradley Middle School
13345 Beatties Ford Road
Huntersville, NC 28078
980-343-5750
Band Info Line- 704-584-9080

Welcome parents and students!!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to a new school year at Bradley Middle School. I am looking forward to a very exciting, musical year filled with opportunities for growth and discovery in band. For the benefit of the new students, before I begin discussing the upcoming year let me tell you a bit about myself.

My name is Mr. Rick Owens. I am beginning my twentieth first year as a professional music educator. During my career I have taught symphonic band, concert band, jazz band, marching band, music appreciation, general music, chorus, and effective speaking in grades five through twelve. I hold a Bachelor's of Music degree from Furman University in Greenville, SC and a Master's of Music from Boston University in Boston, MA. I am Nationally Board Certified in Early Adolescent through Young Adult Music by the National Boards for Professional Teaching Standards. My primary instrument is the saxophone.

This handbook will help explain policies and procedures that we will be following this year. The handbook does not attempt to foresee every circumstance, but does set out broad principles upon which we will build. Anything not discussed in the handbook will be handled in accordance with school and district policy and will be guided by the best interests of the students and the program.

Parents are encouraged to use the Bradley Middle School Band wiki site on a weekly basis. This site will contain current class and homework assignments as well as band news and information. This website can be found at <http://bradleybands.cmswiki.wikispaces.net/>. We also have a Bradley Band Boosters Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/bradleybandboosters to help keep you updated about band business and fundraising. For those without internet access, you can get all of the latest news and announcements at the Bradley Band Info Line- 704-584-9080.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at rick.owens@cms.k12.nc.us or call at 980-343-5750. I firmly believe parent involvement is the key to success in school.

Rick Owens
Director of Bands
Bradley Middle School

Classes

All band classes at Bradley Middle School are performance based classes. It is understood that as such, all band students will be required to attend and perform at concerts scheduled outside of the regular school day. It is also understood that performances comprise a major portion of each student's class grade.

Sixth Grade Band- This is the entry level band class in all CMS schools. No prior music or band experience is needed. Students will be required to provide an instrument, music book and all accessories needed for their instrument of study.

Seventh Grade Band- All students must have successfully completed the sixth grade band class or received director approval of supplementary instruction.

Eighth Grade Band- All students must have successfully completed the sixth and seventh grade band class or received director approval of supplementary instruction.

Marching/Pep Band- This band is open to any seventh or eighth grade band student. Because they will be representing the school during numerous performances on and off campus, students wanting to be a part of the marching band must maintain not only musical excellence, but excellence in behavior as well. After school rehearsals will be a required part of membership in this ensemble. A complete rehearsal schedule will be sent home the first week of school.

Membership Requirements

- Maintain at least a "B" average in all band classes
- Receive no referrals, and no more than one before school detention in band class
- Excellent behavior throughout the school environment
(*two ISS or one OSS assignment is grounds for dismissal*)
- Attendance at all required after school rehearsals

Classroom Expectations

1. Student will enter and exit the band room in a quiet controlled manner.
2. Students will have all instruments and materials ready by the time Mr. Owens begins the warmup exercises.
3. Students will be prepared for class EVERY DAY! Student without their instrument, accessories, and a pencil each day will have points deducted from their daily participation grade. Multiple infractions of this expectation will result in before school detention.
4. Please raise your hand and wait to be recognized BEFORE talking or moving.
5. Never touch or play another student's instrument, even if you have their permission.
6. No gum, food, candy or drinks will be allowed in the band room at any time.
7. All instruments must be clearly marked with the students name and must go home each afternoon. **No instrument will be allowed to stay in the band room overnight.** Instruments may ONLY be stored in the designated storage area during the school day. The school, CMS, and staff are NOT responsible for instruments left in the storeroom or anywhere else on campus at any time including school issued lockers.
8. Students are required to attend all scheduled concerts. These concerts will be announced in the newsletters, on the website, and through weekly email bulletins. All band classes at Bradley are *performance based classes*, therefore these concerts will represent a significant portion of the student's grade.
9. Please be kind and respectful of you fellow classmates. Remember that in order for the band to be successful, we need for EVERYONE to be successful. Let's practice good teamwork and understanding.

Grading Policy

10%- Practice records/Theory Homework (informal assessment)

For students using Smart Music, practicing must be completed by 11:00 pm Sunday to count towards that weeks practice. For those not using Smart Music, practice records (found in the front of the band book) must be filled out each week in non-erasable ink pen, signed and dated by a parent or legal guardian and turned in to Mr. Owens. Practice cards will only be accepted during the week that they are due. Minimum requirements and procedures will be outlined on the weekly card because weekly goals will increase as the year progresses. Just as math and social studies homework is important to a student's success in those subjects, so is band homework important for success in band. The key to success on a musical instrument is repetition and consistency. Home practice is not an optional activity, but is a required and vital component of instrumental music study.

35%- Daily Classroom Participation (informal assessment)

Students must have all materials including instrument, and all accessories during class each day. Method books and sheet music will be provided during class time. Students must actively participate in every class and remain on task. A list of required materials and accessories for each instrument may be found later in the handbook.

35%- Quizzes and Tests (formal assessment)

Students will be prepared for all written and playing test and quizzes. Most quizzes and tests will be announced ahead of time and be available on Smart Music for home recording. Smart Music quizzes or tests not completed at home before the day of in class testing will not be graded. Students will be required to test during class in those cases. Because of the state's move to a statewide assessment model in ALL classes, there will be some testing that will be done by every student in class. Please pay attention to our testing schedule and be prepared.

20%- Performances (formal assessment)

All band classes at Bradley Middle School are performance based classes. Students are **REQUIRED** to attend all scheduled concerts. Grades for performances will be based on student preparation, adherence to proper concert attire (Bradley Band Polo Shirt and Khaki Pants), reporting at designated call time, and actual performance execution. In grading periods with no required performances, grading weight for this category will be added to quizzes and tests.

Required Materials

Instrument

All students are required to provide their own musical instrument that is in good working order, and maintain the instrument throughout their band experience. If an instrument needs to be repaired, the student will first bring the instrument to the director for inspection. When an instrument is not working correctly, often times a minor adjustment by the director is all that is needed. If the director determines that the instrument must be repaired, the student is required to obtain an instrument repair receipt from the music store indicating when the instrument was dropped off, what repair is needed and an approximation of when the instrument will return. Parents are encouraged to try to obtain a loaner or rental instrument from the music store while repairs are taking place so that the student does not fall behind.

Occasionally, an opportunity to use a school owned “specialty” instrument will arise. If a student is asked to play a specialty instrument, the parent and student must sign a form stating they understand the instrument will be in their care and that they are responsible for any damage to or loss of that instrument. Students will still be responsible for maintaining all required accessories for that instrument.

Smart Music and Method Book

All sixth grade students will be required to have a copy of our method book (listed below) in their band binder for use in class. All seventh and eighth graders are encouraged to have their own copy as well. For home practice, students may use their method book or subscribe to Smart Music Practice Software at www.smartmusic.com. The band wiki site will take you through the benefits of Smart Music and how to subscribe. It is one of the best home practice tools I have ever encountered. We will be using it extensively in class and using it for a significant amount of testing. This year's method books will be:

Sixth Grade- Essential Elements 2000 Book 1

Seventh Grade- Essential Elements 2000 Book 1
AND
Essential Elements 2000 Book 2

Eighth Grade- Essential Elements 2000 Book 2

Accessories- These must be kept at all times! (not just at the beginning of the year)

Clarinet players

- Clarinet care kit which includes cleaning items (make sure it is either wood or plastic depending on what the clarinet is made of)
- 3 Clarinet reeds of strength 2 1/2 from either Vandorn or Mitchell Laurie. Please avoid basic Rico reeds.
- Reed case with ventilated grooves that holds two or four reeds
- Mouthpiece cap (should be included with the clarinet)
- Music Stand (for home practice)
- *Recommended Mouthpiece- Vandorn B45 or Premier by Hite*
- *Recommended Instrument Brands- Yamaha, Buffet, Jupiter*

Flute players

- Flute care kit which includes cleaning items (should include cleaning cloth or swab and polishing cloth)
- Cleaning rod (should be included with flute)
- Music Stand (for home practice)

- *Recommended Brands- Yamaha, Gemeinhardt, Selmer, Jupiter*

Saxophone

- Saxophone care kit
- 3 Saxophone reeds of strength 2 1/2 from either Vandorn or Fred Hemke. Please avoid basic Rico reeds.
- Saxophone Neckstrap (ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED)
- Music Stand (for home practice)
- *Recommended Mouthpiece- Selmer S80*
- *Recommended Instrument Brands- Yamaha, Selmer, Jupiter*

Trumpet

- Trumpet care kit
- Music Stand (for home practice)
- *Recommended Mouthpiece- 5C*
- *Recommended Instrument Brands- Bach, Yamaha, King*

Trombone players

- Trombone care kit (with slide cream NOT slide oil)
- Small spray bottle that fits in case
- Music Stand (for home practice)
- *Recommended Mouthpiece- 6 1/2AL*
- *Recommended Instrument Brands- Bach, Yamaha, King, Conn*

French horn

- French Horn care kit which includes rotary oil

Percussionists

- 1 pair SD1 general drum sticks
- 1 pair rubber mallets
- 1 pair hard mallets
- 1 mallet/stick bag
- 1 concert snare drum (part of education drum kit)
- 1 practice pad (part of education drum kit)
- 1 set of practice bells (part of education drum kit)

Procedures

Instrument Drop-off and Pick-up

All instruments must be clearly marked with the student's name. This may be done with a label, tape, luggage tag, or an instrument tag that can be purchased at any local music dealer. Students dropping off instruments in the morning will go directly to the band room from the bus lot or carpool lane. Students must quickly store their instrument in their assigned cubby and then immediately go to class. No one will loiter in the instrument storage room or the band room. Students may not carry instruments during the school day nor may students store instruments in a school locker. All students must sign and return the instrument disclaimer form contained in the back of the band manual.

At the end of the day, students may pick-up band instruments when they are called to the bus or car lot. Again, students will quickly gather their instrument and leave towards the front of the building. No one may leave the building through any of the side entrances.

It is highly recommended that students keep mouthpieces, reeds and small items with them during the school day. All drummers will keep sticks and mallets in their stick bag and take that with them after class.

All seventh and eight grade student must have instruments and materials by the second day of class. Sixth grade must have instrument and materials by the fourth day of class.

Important Band Dates 2013- 2014

August

28th and 29th- All Seventh and Eighth Grade Students must bring instruments and supplies to class

September

4th and 5th- All Sixth Grade Students must bring instrument and supplies to class

5th- Smart Music Training Parent Night- 6:30 pm

6th- Smart Music Student Training- 8:00 am

10th- Student Conductor Training Session #1 (new conductors) 8 am

12th- Student Conductor Refresher Session (previous conductors) 8 am

17th- Bradley Middle School Curriculum Night

19th- Student Conductor Training Session #2- 8 am

20th- 8th Grade Band Night at Hough High School

23rd- Student Conductor Training Session #3- 8 am

26th- Student Conductor Training Makeup Session- 8 am

October

11th- Hopewell High School Bradley Band Night (Marching Band Performance)

TBA- Marching Band Performance at a Home Football Game

December

7th- North Mecklenburg Christmas Parade (Marching Band Performance)

9th- Bradley Bands Winter Concert- 6:30 pm

January

11th- All District Band Auditions

24th- 25th- All District Band Clinic

March

12th- 14th- District Concert Festival

April

11th- Bradley Fine Arts Festival

25th- 27th- Possible Spring Trip (Performing Band)

May

10th- Solo and Ensemble Festival

27th- Bradley Bands Spring Concert

December 9th and May 27th are the only performance dates REQUIRED of all band students.

Band Student Information Sheet 2013-14

Name _____ Grade _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Parent/Guardian Work Phone _____

Parent/Guardian Names _____

Parent Email Address _____

Second Parent Email Address _____

Your Instrument _____ Brand _____

Serial # _____ How long have you played? _____

Homeroom Teacher _____ Room Number _____

Do you take private lessons? _____ If so, with whom? _____

List any other instruments you play _____

List any sports, hobbies or interests _____

Are there any special medical concerns I need to know about? _____

I have read the entire Bradley Middle School Band Handbook and agree to abide by and support the policies stated. (Available at <http://bradleybands.cmswiki.wikispaces.net/>)

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Date

_____ *I do not have internet access and will need a printed copy of the 2013-14 Bradley Band Handbook.*