

INTRODUCTION

This handbook has been prepared for parents and members of the Belvidere South Middle School Band. Included are the rules, requirements, regulations and **required performances** for the school year. Please read this information carefully and keep this handbook for future reference. Information is also posted on the Band's Website at: www.bsmsband.com

I sincerely hope that you will have a rewarding and exciting musical experience through your participation in the BSMS Band. The success of the band depends entirely on the musical and personal growth of the individual and their contribution to the betterment of the group. The BSMS bands function on the premise that the individual is responsible to the group as a whole.

DIRECTOR

Mr. Brad Hedding is Director of Bands at Belvidere South Middle School. Mr. Hedding received his BA in Music Education from the University of Northern Iowa in 1989. Mr. Hedding is in his 26th year of teaching bands. He started his career as band director for the Harris-Lake Park Schools in Lake Park, Iowa. Mr. Hedding has also taught bands in Grand Rapids, Minnesota and Garner, Iowa. Mr. Hedding was a middle school band director for the Cedar Rapids Community School District in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for 8 years before coming to Belvidere, IL in 2002. Mr. Hedding has performed on trumpet, clarinet, and percussion with the Marion Community band from Marion, Iowa. Mr. Hedding also has extensive experience in the Drum and Bugle Corps activity with such groups as the Madison Scouts from Madison, Wisconsin and the Nite Express from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Mr. Hedding has also performed with the Eastern Iowa Brass Band and the Rockford Wind Ensemble.

“FOR A WELL-ROUNDED LIFE, ONE MUST HAVE MUSIC. FURTHERMORE IT OFFERS THE BEST WAY OF USING TIME. AS LEISURE INCREASES THROUGH SHORTENING WORK HOURS, THE USE OF MUSIC BECOMES MORE AND MORE NECESSARY. THERE ARE NO DRAWBACKS TO MUSIC. YOU CAN’T HAVE TOO MUCH OF IT. THERE ARE NO RESIDUAL BAD EFFECTS LIKE OVERINDULGENCE IN OTHER THINGS.

GEORGE EASTMAN

2015 - 2016 Band Calendar

August	18	First Day Of School For Students
August	19	First Day With Band Instruments
September	17	Fall Fundraiser Kick-Off
September	28	Fall Fundraiser Ends (Turn in all order forms)
September	30	Half-Time Rehearsal with H.S. Band (8th grade only) 7:00-8:15 p.m.
October	2	Half-Time Performance with H.S. Band (8th grade only) 6:00 p.m.
October	10	IMEA Auditions (7th & 8th Grade Students only)
October	30	Halloween Parade 6:00 p.m.
November	14	IMEA Jazz Festival at Rochelle High School, Rochelle, IL (selected 7th & 8th grade students)
November	21	IMEA Concert Band Festival in Dekalb (Selected 7th & 8th grade students)
December	5	Holiday Parade 9:00 a.m.
December	9	Winter Band Concert at the PAC (Grades 6,7,8)
March	TBA	District Solo and Ensemble Festival (Grades 6,7&8)
March	22	Combined Band Jazz Concert with High School 7:00PM (Gr. 7&8)
May	2	Spring Band Concert at the PAC (Grades 6,7,8)
May	4	NCJC Honor Band (Selected 7th & 8th grade students only)

Check the band website for any changes to this schedule of events (www.bsmsband.com). I will also send home with your student any changes and/or updates to this schedule of events.

During performances you are expected to be good, attentive listeners for the other groups. **Students are expected to stay for the entire concert to earn full credit for that performance.**

BAND GOALS

STAFF GOALS:

- 1) The students should be better musicians after having been a member of the Band.
- 2) The students should be better individuals after they leave the Band.
- 3) The students should have fun and enjoy their learning experiences while they are in the Band.

STUDENT GOALS:

Students who are learning about music must be able to comprehend all the concepts, skills and activities that are exposed to them in the band program. To achieve excellence in musical competency the following goals have been established for the band students. These goals are based on the **National Standards for Music Education recommended by the Federal Government in 1993.**

Students should:

- 1) Make music alone and with others.
- 2) Understand the basic concepts of music.
- 3) Respond to music intellectually, emotionally and physically.
- 4) Make aesthetic judgments based on critical listening and analysis.
- 5) Develop positive attitudes toward music.
- 6) Experiment with musical creativity alone and with others.
- 7) Use the vocabulary and notation of music.
- 8) Become acquainted with a wide variety of musical styles.
- 9) Become familiar with the role music plays in the lives of men and women.
- 10) Develop a feeling of worth for self and others.
- 11) Develop computer literacy skills with music software programs.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS FOR BAND

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS:

- 1) Attendance at **all** performances is required.
- 2) The band director must approve all absences **one week prior** to the performance. An advanced absence form **must** be filled out.
- 3) Absences will be dealt with on an individual basis.
- 4) Attire for performances will be as follows: 6th Grade - white shirt, black pants or skirt, 7th and 8th Grade - band uniform, black socks, black shoes

CLASSROOM AND REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS:

- 1) Students should be in their assigned spot
- 2) Students should come prepared with all their music, mutes, reeds, valve oil, and a **pencil**.
- 3) Talking during rehearsal will not be tolerated.
- 4) Respect for everyone in the room must be present at all times.
- 5) No food or drink or gum is allowed in the room **at any time**.

LESSON EXPECTATIONS:

- 1) All students will work out of a technique book. Percussionist will be expected to prepare material on bells and snare.
- 2) Students are responsible for attending their scheduled lessons and to show musical growth each grading period. A practice record must be filled out before each lesson (Minimum of **140 min per week**).
- 3) Students are responsible for setting up make-up lessons for any missed lessons. Lessons **may** be excused on an individual basis.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1) Students are to communicate with the band director about anything relating to the band program and its expectations. Remember the director can not read your mind.
- 2) This is a performance-based course and excessive absences at rehearsals and performances will not be tolerated.
- 3) You represent South Middle School and our program. Always conduct yourself in a way that is positive.

BSMS BAND GRADING POLICY

Your band grade will be based on the following criteria:

50% Attendance and Attitude

Attendance at all rehearsal and performances is required. The director understands that there may be times when it is necessary to be absent. Attitude, in reference to personal and musical growth, will be considered as it reflects on the individual, their section and the ensemble.

50% Technique Lessons

Based on attendance at lessons and the amount of musical growth during the grading period. Each lesson will receive a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F. Your final lesson grade will be the average of those grades. The expectation is that you will pass all material assigned for each lesson. You are expected to make up all missed lessons. Make-up lesson must be scheduled in advance.

Extra credit options include the following: participating in the solo and ensemble festival, IMEA Band or Jazz Festival, concert set up and tear down, extra lessons beyond the required amount, and other areas to be approved by the director.

BAND ROOM REGULATIONS

- 1) The band room is a place to practice.
- 2) All equipment, including instruments and music must be stored in their proper place.
- 3) Only percussionists are allowed in the percussion area.
- 4) Do not play each other's instruments. This is unsanitary and dangerously expensive should damage occur.
- 5) Keep the band room clean. This means no pop, food or drink will be allowed in the room.
- 6) All personal items should be left in your locker.
- 7) Knock before entering the band office.

SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

Request for an Excused Absence or Tardy

Name _____

Today's Date _____

Instrument _____

Phone _____

Date of Event _____

Name of Event _____

Check one: _____ absence _____ tardy

Check one: _____ rehearsal _____ performance

State completely the reason why this request is necessary.

Signature of
parent/guardian _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

ACTION: _____ EXCUSED _____ UNEXCUSED

Signature of director _____

Date _____

BELVIDERE
SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

BAND HANDBOOK
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MR. HEDDINGER
DIRECTOR
www.bsmsband.com