

Birmingham Public Schools

Elementary School Band Program

Beverly Greenfield Quarton West Maple
Bingham Farms Pembroke Harlan Pierce

Mr. Adam Hendry
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BEGINNING BAND HANDBOOK

MR. HENDRY

2019-20

Playing a band or orchestra instrument is a voluntary activity offered to all students in the fifth grade. Students choosing not to participate in this program are able to do a variety of other activities during the instrumental music time depending on the school and classroom teacher. If a student chooses to enroll in the beginning band there will be challenges. They must assume the responsibilities of maintaining a weekly practice routine, keeping track of their practice time and transporting the instrument and instruction books from home to school on specified days of the week. An extra challenge for some students is to maintain good self control in a very large class setting. If you feel your child is not really prepared and motivated at this time to meet these challenges it would probably be better to wait until next year. If the student is part of a special needs program parents should remember that choosing instrumental music is an additional learning skill to be understood and demonstrated through performances by the student. Careful thought should go into the selection of what instrument the special needs child shall learn.

Acquiring an instrument for beginning band

Students normally rent instruments for a two or three-month trial period from music stores that observe the guidelines set forth by the BPS Instrumental Music Faculty. The following stores supply the recommended materials for all band instruments: Marshall Music (Troy 248-457- 0300), McCourt's Music (Berkley 248.546.4300) and Anderson Music (Troy 248.680.0010).

When it comes to acquiring band instruments for your beginning student-*Buyer Beware!* There are established musical instrument brands of good quality available to the public from retail outlets and on-line. In these times of extreme cost conscious spending there are also instrument companies and individuals offering good looking *but inferior products* at a lower price. The brand names provided by the music vendors listed above are from long established companies that provide quality instruments for all skill levels. Repairs and adjustments to all band instruments are normal occurrences and these situations are easily taken care of when recognized brand names are utilized. I am familiar with all of the established instrument manufacturers and would be happy to evaluate or comment first hand on any instrument that you plan to acquire from any source. I DO NOT recommend any band instruments from Costco, Meijer, Wal-Mart, etc. If I am not familiar with a new entry into the field I will tell you. I never recommend purchasing an instrument during the first 4-6 months of the beginner's first year. If your child is successful after the first 6 months of instruction and the desire is there to continue in middle school, purchasing the instrument would be the next logical step.

Last spring Marshall Music tested and fitted all fourth graders for band or orchestra instruments. All beginning band students must have their instrument and method book by **Monday, September 16** to participate in the program this year. The instrumental music teacher assumes the student is beginning on the instrument of their choice for which they were fitted. Students must be committed to practice the instrument that they originally selected. Due to the difficulty of the oboe, tuba and the French horn, *private lessons are required for these instruments.*

Student Evaluations in Beginning Band

The first three months of beginning band are extremely important in the success of the beginning student. Regular home practice is essential throughout the year but it is especially important during these early stages. Practice records will be monitored weekly by the band teacher once we begin to use our method books (approximately the second week in October). Band students will perform individual playing tests and complete written tests during the class after the 4th week of instruction and right before the fall parent conferences. The two playing test usually serve well to indicate whether or not your child should continue to rent the instrument and remain in the Instrumental Music Program.

Supplies for band class:

1. An approved band instrument with outer name tag. Consult Mr. Hendry if you are unsure.
2. The band method book “Standard of Excellence” *Enhanced* Comprehensive Band Method, book I for the selected instrument. Your name must be clearly marked on your book as soon as you have received it. All band students must have their instruments & books by Monday, September 16.
3. A music stand for home practice.
4. A 3-ring binder for supplemental materials that will be issued throughout the year.

Guidelines for class:

1. It is the responsibility of the student to come to every band class with two items – an instrument in good working condition and the prescribed method book. If an instrument repair is needed it is the parent’s responsibility to arrange for the repair to be completed as soon as possible. Students who do not bring their instruments to class will complete written musical assignments during the band time.
2. Students are expected to arrive to class on time in a quiet and well-behaved manner.
3. Students must take their instruments home at the end of each day of band class.
4. All band students will be required to keep track of their **home practice** time using practice slips that are to be turned in weekly. My recommendation for home practice time is a minimum of 20 minutes per practice session taking place at least 5 times throughout the week. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week and record and turn in their practice slips on a weekly basis with a parent signature.
5. No gum, food or candy in the band instruction area.
6. Do not touch another person’s instrument, even if someone says that it is OK.
7. All students will be responsible for putting their chairs and music stands away at the end of class.

Band Days & Times: (There are No Friday’s unless a special make-up day is created during the year)

Greenfield	A&C days, 9:00-9:45am	Harlan	B&D days, 9:05-9:50am
Beverly	A&C days, 10:45-11:30am	Pembroke	B&D days (including Fridays) 10:35-11:20am
Bingham Farms	A&C days, 1:00-1:45pm	Quarton	B&D days, 1:10-1:55pm
West Maple	A&C days, 2:45-3:30pm	Pierce	B&D days, 3:00-3:45pm

Spring 2020 Concert Performances:

All beginning band students will combine in the spring to perform two separate concerts at either the Groves or Seaholm Auditorium. The two combined concert dates for this year are:

Derby feeder schools-Rehearsal (mandatory) at Seaholm Monday, May 4, 4:30-5:30pm.

Concert at Seaholm Tuesday, May 5, 7:00pm.

Berkshire feeder schools-Rehearsal (mandatory) at Groves Wednesday, May 6, 4:30-5:30pm.

Concert at Groves Thursday, May 7, 7:00pm.

Each elementary band will also perform a day concert at their own school for students and staff. These dates are still to be determined.

There is much to consider when deciding to join the beginning band. Musicians of any age will tell you it is fun to play an instrument. What is also important to remember however, is that the ability to play well and have fun is a direct result of dedication during the early years of learning. To play an instrument and participate in a performing group can be very exciting and personally rewarding. Participation in the school band program has many benefits and can lead to a life-long enjoyment and appreciation of music

Sincerely,

Mr. Hendry
Elementary Band Teacher
AHendry2@birmingham.k12.mi.us

ATTENTION:

After carefully reading the Beginning Band Handbook please complete the Parent-Student Acknowledgement Form found on Mr. Hendry’s Beginning Band Website:

www.bpselementaryband.weebly.com