

# YMS Band Handbook



*2013-2014 School Year*



August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Dear Parents, Students, and Friends of the YMS Band Program,

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year! In this handbook you will find valuable information regarding performance dates, concert etiquette, grading policy, and classroom expectations, as well as suggestions for making practicing successful. Please read through each section carefully with your YMS band student and sign the last page. **This should be returned to school by Friday August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013.**

If you have any questions or concerns that have not been addressed in this handbook please do not hesitate to contact me. Also, please stay connected throughout the year- we have a variety of technology available to you in order to stay in touch!

**Website:** [beltonbands.com](http://beltonbands.com)

**Twitter:** @YMS\_Band

**Instagram:** [beltonbands](https://www.instagram.com/beltonbands)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/beltonbands](http://www.facebook.com/beltonbands)

Yours in Music Education,

**Miss Erin Howard**

Band Director

BHS/YMS Bands

Belton School District

Email: [ehoward@bsd124.org](mailto:ehoward@bsd124.org)



# Calendar of Dates

**August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013:** *Parent Meeting*

- Fundraiser BBQ Concert Planning
- 6pm in the YMS band room

**October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013:** *Fundraiser BBQ Concert*

- Mandatory performance
- Attire: black band polo/jeans

**November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013:** *District Honor Band Auditions*

- Optional Event

**December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013:** *Winter Band Concert*

- Mandatory performance
- 7pm in the YMS gymnasium
- Attire: black band polo/khaki pants/nice shoes

**March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014:** *Large Ensemble Contest*

- Mandatory performance for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (possibility for 7<sup>th</sup>)

**March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014:** *Band-O-Rama Concert*

- Mandatory performance
- Belton High School gymnasium
- Attire: black band polo/khaki pants/nice shoes

**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014:** *Spring Band Concert*

- Mandatory performance
- 7pm in the YMS gymnasium
- Attire: black band polo/khaki pants/nice shoes

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014:** *Night of the Arts*

- Optional Event

**May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014:** *Solo and Ensemble Festival*

- Optional Event

Additional Dates to Come:

Pep Band Games

Jazz Band Auditions

Honor Band Concert



# Grading Policy

## Performances (20%)

The element of performance appears on the national standards for music education and is an integral part of music education. Therefore, our 4 main concerts a year and large ensemble contest (for 8<sup>th</sup>) are mandatory and part of the curriculum. The mandatory performances are as follows:

- Fundraiser BBQ (Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Winter Concert (Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>)
- Large Ensemble Contest (Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>) \*8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Band-O-Rama (Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>)
- Spring Concert (May 8<sup>th</sup>)

Concert attire: black band polo (shirt tucked in), khaki pants, nice shoes, belt. Shirts can be purchased for \$15.00.

## Playing Tests (20%)

Playing tests will occur weekly or bi-weekly. Students will be notified on a Monday of the playing test requirements and the test will be given on Friday. Playing tests are evaluated with the following rubric:

5 points	Note Accuracy
5 points	Rhythmic Accuracy
5 points	Technique (posture, hand position, breathing, etc.)
5 points	Articulation
5 points	Musicality (volume, speed, style, etc.)
30 points	TOTAL

## Written Work (20%)

On occasion students will be assigned worksheets, writing assignments and prompts in order to supplement a musical concept or provide reflection and deepen understanding. Assignments are typically due at the end of the hour unless modification is appropriate.

## Participation (40%)

Students receive 5 points DAILY for meeting the 3 expectations previously discussed (come prepared, try your best, be respectful). Students lose daily points for repeated offenses. *Ex: gum chewing, no instrument/pencil, excessive tardies, chronic off-task or distracting behavior.*



# Miss Howard's Expectations

This section is not called "Classroom Expectations" for a reason. Band is a co-curricular activity, meaning that it happens during the school day as well as outside of the curriculum. The YMS band students will have many opportunities to represent the band program as well as our school district out in the community. Our band program has a growing reputation for being a talented group of young musicians in addition to being comprised of respectful and thoughtful young adults. It is crucial that all students meet the following expectations to ensure the greatest opportunity for success and to uphold the pride of our program.

## **1. Come Prepared**

- Instrument
  - Including reeds, valve oil, etc.
- Music
  - Book and sheet music
- Pencil
  - EVERY DAY

## **2. Try Your Best**

- Participate
  - Be actively engaged in class
  - Ask questions when you have them
- Practice
  - At LEAST 4 times a week
- Positive Attitude
  - Be open-minded about new things
  - Don't get discouraged, ask for help

## **3. Be Respectful**

- Of our peers:
  - Band is a family, you don't have to like everyone, but you need to be able to cooperate
  - Observe personal space
  - Treat others the way you want to be treated
- Of our equipment
  - Instruments are not cheap! They need to be properly cleaned and maintained
  - Music stands/chairs should be used correctly and only for their intended purpose (*no stand leaning, writing on, etc.*)
- Of our environment:
  - The band room is "our" home- things need to be put away
  - When we travel students are expected to clean up after themselves

# Extracurricular Opportunities

## **YMS Band of Pirates Pep Band**

The YMS Pep Band is an auditioned group of both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The band performs at a variety of pep assemblies and school events throughout the year in addition to at least 6 home basketball games (both boys & girls games). The pep band also makes an appearance in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade on Main St. in Belton. Pep band meets on an "as needed" basis before/after school.

To Audition: Students need to make an appointment with Miss Howard before/after class or after school. The audition music is the Star-Spangled Banner.



## **YMS Pirate Pride Jazz Band**

The jazz band is also an auditioned group comprised of both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The jazz band is Yeokum's "premiere" ensemble and travels to different community events, including but not limited to: recruiting assemblies, fundraiser events, community fairs, etc. in addition to performing in the winter/spring concerts. Jazz band meets every Thursday and Friday morning at 6:30am.

To Audition: Jazz band auditions will be held over a 3-day period at the end of September. Students must be present at all 3 sessions to be eligible.



## The 10 Rules of Concert Etiquette (For Adults)

- 1. Refrain from talking.** The first and greatest rule, it also includes whispering to or disciplining your other children.
- 2. Refrain from unwrapping noisy candy wrappers during the performance.** If the composer wanted to include crinkle paper noises to the music, he/she would have written it into the parts.
- 3. Turn off pagers, cell phones and watch alarms.** While many cell phones and pagers have symphonic-like rings, they don't always fit into the musical score, nor do they provide pleasant sounds for your neighbors.
- 4. Do not wave to your children during the concert.** After all, they do know who you are already, and they know you are there; you most likely brought them to the concert.
- 5. Do not take flash photography.** You do not want your child to fall off the stage from blindness, do you?
- 6. Do not walk down the center aisle with your video camera.** Video cameras work just as well from the back of the auditorium. (Besides; the light is usually not good enough for video taping anyway.)
- 7. Do not leave as soon as your child's portion of the concert is over.** All of the students deserve a full audience for their performances. Remember, next time your child's song(s) could be last.
- 8. Applaud at appropriate times.** Some musical selections have several sections. Remember, it's not over until all of the sections of that selection have been performed.
- 9. Do not leave the auditorium during the music.** Wait for a break in the concert to visit the restroom, unless you are carrying a screaming child, in which case you should leave quietly and quickly. PLEASE!
- 10. Go to the concert expecting the best.** You might just be surprised how good your student sounds when the other students join in!

# 2013-2014 Supplies

**7<sup>th</sup> grade: Traditions of Excellence Book One**

**8<sup>th</sup> grade: Traditions of Excellence Book Two**

## **Flute:**

-cleaning swab

-cork grease

## **Clarinet/Sax:**

-reeds (AT LEAST 3 at all times)

-reed cap

-neck strap (clarinet AND saxophone both)

-cork grease

-silk cleaning swab

## **Brass: (trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone, tuba)**

-valve/slide oil

-snake cleaning brush

*Trumpets: a Bach 1.5C mouthpiece is strongly recommended*

## **Percussion:**

-hard rubber mallets

-yarn mallets

-drum sticks

-stick bag (please label with student name)

*\*All percussionists must have a snare drum AND bell*

*kit/xylophone at home*

## **What to do if you need supplies:**

-check out the Meyer Music tab at [beltonbands.com](http://beltonbands.com) and order online, or...

-call Meyer Music (Blue Springs location) and pay over the phone. Supplies will be delivered to YMS the following Tuesday!

**Meyer Music:** 1512 SW Highway 40 Blue Springs, Mo

Phone: 816-228-5656



# Acknowledgement Statement

I acknowledge that my student and I have read through the band handbook and understand the expectations of the band program. I understand the grading policy and the responsibility of the extracurricular concerts in the evening.



Student shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_ (child S-L or adult S-3XL)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print)

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\*\*Return to school by 8/23/13 for 10 points!\*\*\*\*\***