

Bryant Middle School Band Handbook



Principal
Mr. Dension

Music Teacher
Mr. Garrison

Bryant School Contact Information
460 N. Vernon St.
Dearborn, MI 4812
Phone: 313-827-2900

Welcome

Welcome! I'm glad you've chosen to be a member of the Bryant Middle School Band/Orchestra Program.

You can contact me:

Via email at garrisb@dearbornschools.org

Before or after school in room 48.

Students and parents should read this handbook to familiarize themselves with what is expected of students.

Schedule of Performances

Scheduled Concerts:

Winter Instrumental concerts:

December 13th 7:00pm - Bryant Auditorium

All bands and orchestras, students arrive by 6:20

MSBOA Festival

Late February/March, date TBD

Solo and Ensemble, March, date TBD

Memorial Day Parade: May 27th

Spring concert:

May 16th 7:00 – Bryant Auditorium

All bands and orchestras, students arrive by 6:20

*6th grade band and orchestra's performance in the winter concert will be based on how much progress has been made leading up to it. Some ensembles may not perform if they are not ready.

Daily Classroom Procedures

When Students enter the room

- Students are expect to
 - Assemble their instrument in a timely manner
 - Have warm-ups and scale exercises out.
 - String players should use one of our classroom tuners.
 - Look over our rhythm of the day.
 - Briefly practice while others finish assembly

Classroom Expectations

During Class time

- Rehearsal Etiquette: Students are expected to
 - Bring their instrument
 - Bring their music/warm-ups
 - Bring a pencil
 - Be on time
 - Give your attention to the rehearsal, i.e., don't talk
 - If Mr. Garrison works with others, respect their opportunity to learn and take advantage of the time to look over your own challenging sections

When rehearsal is over

- Students are expect to
 - Swab out Woodwinds
 - Empty Brass of condensation
 - Place your instrument in it's case
 - Put your case in the music storage area or for smaller instruments take them to your locker
 - Take your music home with you to practice.

Instruments and Supplies

The Bryant music department is fortunate enough to have a number of the larger band and orchestra instruments available for students to use. Bryant does not provide violins, flutes, clarinets, trombones, and alto saxophones. Please contact a local music store for rental options.

A&R Music – 313-381-2274

Marshall Music – 313-383-5560

It is the student's responsibility to provide certain essential items whether it is their own instrument or the schools.

- Band students should have
 - Valve oil
 - Cork grease
 - Reeds – Generally between sizes 2-3
 - A drum pad and sticks
- Orchestra students should have
 - Rosin
 - A shoulder rest for violin/viola players

The above items can be purchased relatively inexpensively. If a financial issue arises please do not hesitate to email or come in to see me.

From time to time instruments need to be repaired. I will do my best to handle small repairs in the classroom but larger repairs will have to be sent out. The Dearborn area has many reputable music stores with repair facilities, Marshalls and A&R are both in the area.

Grading

A student's grade in band is a balanced reflection of musical achievement, technical skill on an instrument, participation in band activities, and effort both within class and at home. The grade is made up of four different factors: Rehearsal grades, tests on our ensemble band music, performances, and personal progress.

Grades are weighted as follows

- Weekly Playing Tests 30%
- [Rehearsals](#) 10%
- [Attitude/Participation](#) 10%
- [Concert/Event Performances](#) 50% (when a performance falls within a marking period)

Weekly Playing Tests

Students will be given playing tests **every Friday**. Because the band and orchestra students alternate days, playing tests will only occur if their class reports to band/orchestra on Friday.

Playing test material will be posted on the board Monday. If we happen to have a Monday off from school the testing material will be posted on the date of their next rehearsal, Wednesday.

Playing tests can be made up and redone before or after school anytime and as many times as a student wishes. Do not settle for a B or C, retake a quiz until you have an A.

Not everyone enters band at the same skill level. Some have played for a long time and have a highly developed skill set. . **It is my goal to insure that every student has the opportunity to progress.** If you need help please ask.

Bryant has a private lesson scholarship program in place and will pay for five lessons for any student who wishes to study privately. Please ask for a form and take advantage of this great program.

Performances

Concerts and other performance events constitute 50% of a student's grade. **Students are expected to attend concerts.** If for some reason a student cannot attend a concert, they must let Mr. Garrison know in writing at least two weeks before the concert. Any shorter notice will result in a zero, No Exceptions. Band and orchestra is a team effort and every participant must be accountable for our ensembles to succeed.

Trips, Solo and Ensemble, Festivals

Bryant middle school as always will be participating in the annual MSBOA festival and solo & ensemble. I strongly encourage students to take part in solo & ensemble. It gives students the opportunity to prepare a piece with an accompanist or with their friends (duet, trio, etc). Information regarding solo & ensemble will be going home as it becomes available. Bryant does not provide transportation for these events.

Bands and orchestras will also take part in MSBOA festival. This is chance for Bryant to play three prepared pieces for a panel of judges, and if all goes well will be offered the opportunity to compete and the state festival. Regardless of our score this is a great opportunity to assess our band strengths and areas that we can focus on more for next year. Transportation will be provided for this event.

Permission slips and more information will be sent home as it becomes available. If you would like to come help with trips or concerts please don't hesitate to ask. I will be asking for volunteers as dates get closer but if there is a particular event that interests you please let me know.

Concert Attire

This year's attire for concerts will be khaki pants, dark shoes, and our Bryant Music polo shirts. If you do not already own a polo from a previous year order forms will be going out in the first few weeks. They are extremely durable and will last them their middle school career

Additional Rehearsals

Occasionally extra rehearsals will be needed, as concerts get closer. These rehearsals will either be before or after. Emails and letters home will be given out if and when extra practice is needed. The more practice students do at home the more progress we can make during the school day. Even a few minutes at home practicing can make a difference.

Fundraising

Fund raising in various forms will come up throughout the year, but one of the easiest ways is to send in the box tops for education. Throughout the year we have many box top collection dates in the cafeteria or students can always bring them directly to me. For every 15 box tops a student will receive a candy bar. It may not seem like much but the money really adds up quickly. Many grocery items have the box tops logo so please send them in.

August 27, 2018

Parents and students,

Please sign below that you have reviewed this year's Band/Orchestra hand book and have reviewed the policies and procedures of the Bryant Middle School Band and Orchestra. Thank you for your support and dedication to a Dearborn tradition.

<http://iblog.dearbornschools.org/bryantbandandorchestra/>

Mr. Garrison

Student _____ Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____