

BONAIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL



2007-2008

Band Handbook

Leah Wilson
Director of Bands

Heidi Schultheis
Assistant Director of Bands

Welcome to the Bonaire Middle School Jaguar Band program! We are so excited to have your child in our band family. In this handbook, you will find all of the information about our different bands, attendance and grading policies, rules and regulations, plus some very valuable information about private lessons for your child which is something that we strongly encourage. Please take the time to read through the handbook and sign the sheet at the end saying that both you and your child have read it. Parents, if you have any questions about the band program that are not answered in the handbook, please feel free to contact us at 929-6235 ext 8.

email: lkwilson@hcbe.net or hschultheis@hcbe.net

Band Opportunities at Bonaire Middle School

SYMPHONIC AND CONCERT BANDS

We are making a few changes to our concert band format. There will now be two full band classes for 7th and 8th grade bands which will be divided up based on ability level. The Winter and Spring concerts will be performed the same as they always have—6th Grade Band, 7th Grade Band, and 8th Grade Band. However, for Large Group Performance Evaluations in March, we will still have two bands performing, but they will be mixed grade Symphonic and Concert Bands. The Symphonic Band will be mostly comprised of our advanced 8th grade students and a few very advanced 7th grade students and will play more difficult music. The Concert Band will consist of equal parts of both 7th and 8th grade students and will perform challenging music but less difficult than the Symphonic Band. Students will be allowed to participate in Large Group Performance Evaluations based on ability, effort, and behavior.

FOOTBALL BAND

One change will occur with the Football Band this year. Any 8th grade student who is not participating in football, softball, or cheerleading in the fall is **required** to participate in Football Band in order to be allowed to participate in the 8th grade Spring Band Trip. The dress for Football Band will still be the BMS purple polo shirts and khaki shorts or pants. Because of the heat, shorts are preferable. An order form for the polo shirts will be given out separately along with this handbook. Home games generally end around 6:30 p. m., so all necessary arrangements need to be made beforehand to pick up your child. We are scheduled for only one away game this year, and it will be at Northside Middle. Pickup times for the kids are 6:30 at Northside and 7:00 at Bonaire. If a student needs to leave early, a note must be given to Mrs. Wilson or Ms. Schultheis ahead of time, or the parent needs to speak with one of the directors personally before the child can be allowed to leave. This is strictly to ensure the safety of your child.

JAZZ BAND

One of the most well-known facets of the Bonaire Middle School band program is the jazz band. The Jazz Band usually has several performances throughout the year including the Mistletoe Market, the Galleria Mall, and the Perry Dogwood Festival. There will be one change with the Jazz Band uniform. Instead of the black Jazz Band t-shirts, we will be switching to black polo shirts with a special new Jazz Band logo. The cost of these shirts will be the same as the purple polo shirts which is \$18.00.

HONOR BAND AND ALL-STATE BAND

Each year, the 7th and 8th grade students have the opportunity to audition for the GMEA District 11 Honor Band and Georgia All-State Band. These auditions will be held at Huntington Middle School on Saturday, December 2nd. Mrs. Wilson and Ms. Schultheis will discuss audition requirements with the students towards the end of August. Beginning in September, every Monday and some Thursdays after school will be reserved for Honor Band tutoring. The students will be given 15 minute blocks of time to sign up and come receive help from Mrs. Wilson and Ms. Schultheis. These tutoring sessions will be each Monday in September. Auditioning for Honor Band and All-State Band is strongly encouraged. For 6th Grade students, a “First Year Honor Band” is held in March.

WOODWIND, BRASS, AND PERCUSSION ENSEMBLES

This year, we are planning to introduce a new facet of the Bonaire Middle School Band—Chamber Ensembles. These are smaller ensembles which will expose the students to new and different kinds of music as well as help them to improve their listening abilities and tone production. Performing in smaller ensembles forces the student to use their ears more which in turn teaches them how to play with better intonation both in a group setting and individually. The brass and woodwind ensembles are purely voluntary and will begin meeting in October after school and will meet on alternate weeks. In other words, if the woodwind ensemble rehearses one week, the brass ensemble will rehearse the next week. The percussion ensembles will meet during class each week to work not only percussion ensemble music, but to really dig into playing techniques for the various percussion instruments. We will have at least one concert with all of the ensembles in May, and we hope to get these groups out into the community as well.

Attendance and Grading Policies

1. Attendance to all rehearsals and performances is vital to the success of the band. If the student has made the commitment to participate in a band, he or she must attend these rehearsals and performances. If a student is unable to attend, he or she must provide a signed note from the parent or guardian giving an acceptable excuse for the absence. If a student has too many unexcused absences from rehearsals, that student will be subject to removal from the band. The penalty for an unexcused absence from a major performance (concerts, festival) will be a three page paper. Failure to complete this paper will result in a parent contact and a failing participation grade.
2. Participation counts 40% of the total band grade. If the student comes to each band class with **all parts** of his or her instrument, all music, band notebook, and a pencil, the grade for participation will be 100. If an instrument has to go into the shop to be repaired, please ask the store rep for a loaner instrument. Also, a note needs to be sent saying that the instrument is being repaired. The penalty for forgetting an instrument will be an alternative written assignment and a failing participation grade for that day.
3. 30% of the total band grade relies on test scores. We do have both playing and written tests in class as well as final exams. The playing tests not only serve to help the director monitor progress but help to ensure that the students are practicing.
4. We will not be having practice record sheets this year. We are going to be using a great software program called Smart Music in which the students can play assignments into the computer and email them to the band directors for a grade. Students will be encouraged but not required to purchase a subscription to Smart Music at home to do their work at home. The cost of the subscription is \$25 per year, and instructions on using Smart Music will be sent home with each student. If the student chooses not to have Smart Music at home, computers will be provided at school to complete the assignments. These assignments will count for the remaining 30% of the student's grade.

Rules and Regulations

1. Excessive talking in class, rehearsals, or performances is not allowed.
2. All school policies apply at all band functions.
3. All students participating in band must pay a small activity fee of \$10.00 to cover the costs of music and other band expenses.
4. Instruments must be brought to class everyday. This means all parts of the instrument including reeds, ligatures, mouthpieces, etc... If the instrument is not being played due to forgetfulness, it doesn't do anyone any good. If an instrument is broken and has to be taken in for repairs, a written note from the student's parent or guardian must be given to Mrs. Wilson or Ms. Schultheis stating so. Students must also remember to bring their band notebooks and pencils.
5. Always be respectful of your band directors, fellow band members and their property, and the property of the school, such as school-owned instruments.
6. *All 8th Grade band members who want to attend the 8th grade band trip in May **must** participate in the Football Band if they are not involved in football, softball, or cheerleading.
7. *All BMS band students using a school-owned instrument must now pay a small fee at the beginning of each nine weeks period to cover repair costs. Failure to pay this fee will result in the instrument being held until payment is made.
8. **If a student receives In-School Suspension more than once or is failing one or more academic classes at any time during the school year, that student may not be allowed to participate in any after school band activities including Jazz Band and the 8th Grade Trip. If a student receives ISS more than twice, he or she may be subject to removal from the band program.

***New rules for 2007-2008**

****These policies will be enforced at the discretion of the directors.**

STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please either staple this form to your other forms, clip them together, or put them in an envelope and put them in "The Box".

STUDENT NAME _____

GRADE _____

MOTHER'S NAME _____

FATHER'S NAME _____

OTHER GUARDIAN _____

HOME PHONE _____

WORK PHONE_(F)_____ (M)_____

CELL PHONE_(F)_____ (M)_____

ADDRESS _____

PARENT EMAIL _____ ****important**

Please list any medical conditions we should be aware of:

FOR 8TH GRADE STUDENTS: PLEASE CIRCLE WHICH HIGH SCHOOL YOU WILL BE ATTENDING NEXT YEAR:

Warner Robins High Houston County High Northside High Perry High

Parents please circle Yes or No: Are you willing to help with fundraisers, chaperone for trips, help out at football games or any other band functions that may need extra assistance? This will require minimal amounts of your time and will help us greatly. If you would like to help, please make sure to include your email address above.

Yes, I would be willing to help.

No, I am not interested.

BMS JAGUAR BAND SHIRT ORDER **FORM**

Please put your forms and money in "The Box" no later than **Friday, August 10th**

--All 7th and 8th grade band members must have a BMS band polo shirt.

6th grade students are welcome to go ahead and purchase a polo shirt for next year, but they are not required to at this time.

This form is for the PURPLE POLO SHIRTS ONLY. Jazz Band shirts will be ordered at a later date.

ALL SHIRTS ARE ADULT SIZES

SHIRTS ARE \$18.00 EACH

NAME OF STUDENT _____

GRADE _____

****Please write the quantity of shirts you would like next to the size. Parents are welcome to order shirts as well.**

SIZE OF POLO: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF SHIRTS: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

PRIVATE LESSONS

Why Take Private Lessons?

We strongly encourage all of our students to take private lessons. Here are some good reasons why your child should take private lessons and also a list of excellent instructors.

There simply is not enough time during band class for each student to get the individual attention they need in order to excel to their full potential. Think about it...in math class, the teacher is teaching the same topic to the entire class of twenty to thirty students. In band, your director is working with anywhere from fifty to one hundred students playing different music parts on fifteen or more different instruments!

A private lesson instructor is entirely devoted to helping you on your instrument playing your music while working on problems you are having. But that's just the beginning. When taking privately, your music experience extends beyond band class.

Your technique and musical expression will grow as you perform etudes and exercises found in a rich selection of material designed to supplement and complement the band music you currently have. Finally, you'll enjoy the added benefit of having someone who can provide additional assistance to you in preparing for auditions and solo/ensemble performances.

If you are at all interested in signing your child up for private lessons, please contact Mrs. Wilson or Ms. Schultheis for information.

PARENT SIGNATURE FORM

This states that the parent or guardian of _____ has read through the Bonaire Middle School Band Handbook and has received the Student Information Form, and Shirt Order Form that was given out separately from the handbook to fill out and return. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Wilson or Ms. Schultheis.

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____

PLEASE TEAR OFF THIS BOTTOM PORTION TO KEEP

BAND ROOM PHONE and FAX: 929-6235 ext. 8
MRS. WILSON EMAIL: lkwilson@hcbe.net
MS. SCHULTHEIS EMAIL: hschultheis@hcbe.net
BONAIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL PHONE: 929-6235
BONAIRE BAND WEBSITE: www.bonairejaguarband.com
BONAIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL WEBSITE: bms.hcbe.net

