

Bryan

Band

Musician's Manual 2020-2021

Brian Berg
Band Director
BBerg@elmhurst205.org
630-617-2350 ext. 3025

COVID 19 – Many of the expectations, activities, and guidelines outlined in this manual will need to be adapted, modified, and adjusted this year to comply with public health conditions and evolving school schedules. However, the spirit and intent of creating a respectful learning environment, conducive to music making opportunities for all students, should remain the primary focal point and lens through which this information is interpreted and applied.

Goals

As a musician in the Bryan Band, you will:

- Learn musical styles and concepts through listening and performance
- Learn and practice performance skills on your instrument
- Learn to read music notation and identify basic elements of music composition
- Learn to apply musical concepts and make style judgments
- Perform music of different styles
- Learn to collaborate with other musicians

Concert Band Essential Skills

The Bryan Concert Bands rehearse and perform music written at a grade 2- 4 level of technical difficulty. Students will learn better and enjoy band more if they are prepared with the following essential skills:

- Demonstrate correct, effective instrument care and maintenance
- Demonstrate correct playing position, posture, and breathing
- Demonstrate a pleasant, characteristic tone quality
- Demonstrate the ability to read a fingering chart for your instrument
- Accurately perform one-octave concert-pitch Bb, Eb, Ab, and F major and Bb chromatic scales
- Accurately perform the following basic rhythms while maintaining a steady beat:
Notes/Rests: Whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth, dotted quarter, dotted eighth, triplet
- Demonstrate the ability to perform music in 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 6/8, and cut time
- Brass and Woodwinds demonstrate the ability to articulate with legato tongue, staccato tongue, and slurs
- Percussionists demonstrate suitable proficiency on both mallet instruments and snare drum

Bryan Band Expectations

- Be respectful and kind to other students, faculty, and property
- Attend rehearsals and technique classes (except in cases of absence from school)
- Arrive to band classes on time and prepared with your instrument, accessories, and music
- Demonstrate excellent rehearsal and concert behavior as performers and audience members
- Practice your music at home regularly and come to rehearsals and performances prepared
- Arrive at concerts on time, ready to perform, in appropriate concert attire
- Respectfully follow instructions given to you by music instructors
- Ask if you do not understand something, encourage others, and keep a positive attitude!

Grading/Reporting

7th/8th Grade band students earn a quarterly band grade of *E, M, or N* on their report card.

6th Grade band students earn a numerical score of 1-4 based on evidence and assessments showing to what degree they have met specific learning standards each semester.

Band students are assessed on the following concepts and skills:

Music Elements

- Identifying and explaining correct note names, key signatures, and fingerings
- Identifying and explaining correct meter, note values, and tempo
- Identifying and explaining correct stickings, articulation, and expressive markings

Instrumental Technique

- Performing with a pleasing tone quality, characteristic of the instrument
- Performing accurate notes, key signatures, and fingerings
- Performing accurate rhythms at an appropriate tempo
- Performing with appropriate posture and playing position
- Performing accurate articulations

Musicianship

- Identifying, explaining, and performing appropriate dynamics and phrasing
- Identifying, explaining, and performing in the appropriate musical style
- Balancing and blending with the section and ensemble

6th grade Standards-Based-Reports follow the following general proficiency scale for each skill/standard being reported: 1=beginning, 2=developing, 3=proficient, 4=exceeds proficient/advanced

7th/8th Grade Grading

E= Exceeds District Standards:

The student **consistently, independently, and accurately** identifies, explains, and applies the assessed musical concepts and skills. Performances are technically proficient, stylistically accurate, and artistically expressive. This student needs minimal guidance in applying previously learned skills to new musical situations. The student averages **90% or above** on assessments.

M= Meets District Standards:

The student **regularly** demonstrates, with some guidance, the ability to **proficiently** identify, explain, and apply the assessed musical concepts and skills. Performances are fundamentally proficient and reasonably accurate. The student is demonstrating steady progress learning new skills and preparing performance music. Stylistic and artistic elements of the student's performance are emerging. The student averages **60% -89%** on assessments.

N= Not Meeting District Standards:

The student has not yet demonstrated a suitable level of proficiency on the assessed musical concepts and technical skills. The student averages **59% or below** on assessments.

In addition to their quarterly grade, 7th/8th grade students also earn a *Learning Behavior* grade and a *Work Completion* grade of I-4.

Work Completion Grade I-4 (I=excellent – 4=poor)

- Attendance at technique classes, rehearsals, and performances
- Completion of class assignments
- Preparation of music for rehearsals and performances

Learning Behavior I-4 (I=excellent - 4=poor)

Class Rules

1. Stay quiet when someone is on the podium. Play instrument and talk only when directed.
2. Arrive on time, prepared, with all materials.
3. Keep sticks, hands, feet, etc. to self

Rehearsal Expectations

- Talk only when the conductor has stepped off of the podium and is not rehearsing the ensemble.
- During class discussions, only **ONE** person may talk at a time. Raise your hand and wait to be called upon. Be respectful of the person who is talking.
- During rehearsal, ask questions that relate directly to the music being rehearsed. Ask non-music questions before or after rehearsal unless there is an emergency.
- Sit in a correct playing position when playing or resting in the middle of a piece. You may sit back in your chair when the conductor is working with another section for more than a few minutes.
- Have your instrument ready to play at least two measures before an entrance.
- Stop and listen **immediately** when the conductor gestures for the ensemble to stop playing.
- Use the restroom before or after rehearsal unless you have an emergency or urgent need.
- **Show** a positive attitude and effort!

Performance Expectations

- Arrive on time, dressed appropriately in concert attire.
- Listen attentively to groups that perform at the same concert. Give applause when appropriate.
- Refrain from talking, texting, or other distracting behavior while others are performing. All phones must be turned off and put away during the performance.
- Help move equipment and other related tasks

Attendance

- Band rehearsals are official class periods. All Bryan Middle School attendance policies apply. Parents should direct all notes/phone calls regarding attendance to the school office.
- In addition to ensemble rehearsals, all band students are required to attend a weekly small-group pull-out instrument technique class during the school day. Technique class times rotate weekly.
- Students and parents should communicate with the band director about anticipated technique class schedule conflicts ahead of time so that an alternative technique period can be assigned.
- Students and parents should communicate with the band director about anticipated performance conflicts ahead of time so that important musical parts can be covered by another musician.

Solo Requirement- Solo and Ensemble Festival

Each year, as part of instrumental technique classes, all 6-8th grade concert band students are required to prepare and perform a solo on their instrument. Practicing and performing a solo is an important musical activity that helps students develop independence and individual musicianship on their instruments. The solo unit will begin in early January and conclude with the District 205 Solo and Ensemble Festival on Saturday, February 27, 2021.

The band directors will assist students with selecting an appropriate solo. Students who are currently taking private lessons may play a solo selected by their (professional-adult) teacher. Solos must be in the art music/classical/educational genre. Movie themes, pop music, jazz play along books, etc are not suitable for this activity. Each student will be required to purchase/own an original published copy of the solo they perform. The solo may be published as an individual piece of sheet music or as part of a collection in a book.

All students are encouraged to perform their solo at the District 205 Solo and Ensemble Festival where they will have the opportunity to receive feedback from an experienced adjudicator. Students who perform at the festival are also strongly encouraged to obtain the services of a professional piano accompanist. The interplay between an accompanist and instrumental soloist is an important and exciting component of the chamber music learning experience. Registration information, a sign-up form, and a list of piano accompanists will be distributed to students in January.

Students who are unable to perform at the solo and ensemble festival will perform their solo at school during a rehearsal or technique class.

In addition to their solos, students are allowed the opportunity to perform in a small ensemble for the festival. Students who wish to do this should see a director or private teacher for assistance in selecting music. *****This event may be reformatted to comply with COVID 19 conditions*****

School-Owned Instruments and Supplies

School-Owned Instruments

Students who are issued school-owned instruments (or percussionists who share them) are expected to take care of them while in their use. School fees cover normal wear and tear. However, any repair for damage beyond normal wear and tear, caused by carelessness, neglect, or vandalism is the responsibility of the student.

Student-Owned Instruments, Home Practice, and Private Lessons

All band students are expected to bring their instruments home regularly to practice. Student-owned instruments should have a name tag and be kept in good repair.

Frequent 20/30-minute practice sessions will yield better results than infrequent, longer practice sessions. The most difficult part of home practice is getting the instrument out of the case. Once the instrument is out and you start to play, the chances of you improving increase exponentially!

In addition to being in band, students are encouraged to take private instrument lessons with a highly-qualified teacher if possible. A combination of ensemble rehearsals, small-group practice, and individual private lessons is the best way to achieve the highest level of learning and enjoyment from playing an instrument.

Concert Band Supply List

All students need at School:

- Black I-inch 3-ring binder with a pencil pouch for storing sheet music
- Method book(s)
- Pencil
- Chromebook
- Special Band PPE: TBA

All students need at home:

- Music stand
- Distraction-free place and time to practice regularly
- Chromebook or other device

Percussion Students

- Set of bells, marimba or other small mallet instrument (at home)
- Snare drum and/or snare practice pad (at home)
- Stick and Mallet bag at school (instrument TBA)
- Vic Firth SD-1 Snare Drum Sticks or equivalent
- Plastic or hard rubber bell/ xylophone mallets
- Medium yarn marimba mallets
(Mike Balter Ensemble series BB#13 recommended)
- Vic Firth T1 General Timpani Mallets

Brass Students

- Instrument with working tuning slides and mouthpiece
- B.E.R.P. for buzzing exercises (at home)
- Valve Oil and Tuning Slide Grease

Woodwind Students

- Instrument with working keys, levers, and corks
- *Box of reeds (saxophone and clarinet)
- Swab
- Small electronic tuner (oboe)

~~*Woodwind students who forget to bring their own reed(s) to rehearsal and use one provided by the school are expected to replace the "borrowed" reed with a new one.~~

*****Distribution of loaner reeds and instruments at school is temporarily suspended due to COVID-19*****

Concert Band Quick-Info Sheet 2020-2021

Director:	Mr. Brian Berg Bberg@elmhurst205.org 630-617-2350 ext. 3025
Membership:	All students who play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument and who can reasonably demonstrate (or are actively working to learn) the <i>Concert Band Essential Skills</i> are eligible to participate
Rehearsal Times:	7 th and 8 th Grade Students = E Block 1 6 th Grade Students = E Block 3 All Band Students Combined = Tuesday Morning 7:30 – 8:15* ***Suspended until later notice due to Covid-19***
Technique Classes:	Monday – Friday remote- time TBA. (Schedule will be distributed to students once it is created)
Required Materials for School:	Instrument and accessories (with a name tag on your case!) Music binder (provided by student) with sheet music (provided by school) Method Book (Each student will need to purchase/ own their own copy) B.E.R.P. (Brass students) *** Use at home due to Covid-19*** Stick Bag with sticks and mallets (Percussion students only) Small bottle of hand sanitizer Pencil
Required Materials at Home:	Music stand, place to practice, metronome
Optional/ Strongly Encouraged:	Private instruction, Small electronic tuner
Method Books:	<i>Essential Elements for Band Book 1 and 2</i> By Tim Lautzenheiser et al. Hal Leonard Publications 6th grade: Need book 1 and 2 7th/8th grade = Need book 2 only
Concert Attire:	Evening: Black shoes, socks, pants with a White long-sleeve button dress shirt Daytime: Black shoes, socks, pants with Bryan Music Department T-shirt
Performances:***	All performances are at Bryan Middle School except for the Band Festival at York and the Memorial Day parade which is in downtown Elmhurst.
Fall Evening Concert:	Tuesday, November 17, 2020 7:00 p.m. (6:30 arrival for musicians)
Fall Morning Concert:	Friday, November 20, 2020 8:30 a.m.
Band Festival at York:	Thursday, March 11, 2021 7:30p.m. (6:15 arrival for musicians)
Solo and Ensemble Festival:	Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Spring Evening Concert:	Tuesday, April 20, 2021 7:00 p.m. (6:30 arrival for musicians)
Spring Band Tour:	Friday, April 30, 2021 8:30 – 1:00 p.m.
Spring Morning Concert:	Friday, May 14, 2021 8:30 a.m.
Memorial Day Parade:	Monday, May 31, 2021 9:00 a.m. (Corner of Addison and Third)

*** All performances are tentative/subject to change due to COVID-19***