

# Introduction

This handbook outlines the policies, procedures, and expectations of our organization. Please take the time to read and familiarize yourself with its contents. While we have done our best to provide the most comprehensive overview of our program and our expectations, please know that it is impossible to address every single detail. If you have questions not addressed in this handbook, please email us, and we would be happy to answer them.

## About Us

With over 180 students, the Berry Miller Junior High Band is the largest student organization on campus. Since its inception in 2008, the Berry Miller Band Program has established a tradition of excellence and success having earned **consistent Superior Ratings** at UIL Concert & Sight Reading. The Honors band has placed **4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> in the TMEA Honor State Band Competition** (in 2019, 2023, and 2017, respectively) and has been invited to perform at the 2019 and 2024 National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis. In 2022, the Berry Miller Junior High School Band Program was awarded the distinguished John Philip Sousa Sudler Silver Cup for consistent and outstanding education in MS/JH bands. The Honors Band and Symphonic Band have been selected as **National Winners** in the Mark of Excellence and Citation of Excellence competitions, sponsored by the Foundation for Music Education. The Honors Band, Symphonic Band, Concert Band 1, and Concert Band 2 consistently earn “Best in Class” at local festivals and showcases. For every year since 2012, Berry Miller has had more students earn spots in the All-Region and All-District Bands **than any other school in Region 19** — which includes all schools from Pearland ISD, La Porte ISD, Barbers Hill ISD, and Deer Park ISD.

## Philosophy

Our goal as music educators is to help our students develop a life-long love and appreciation of music. We accomplish this through performance — teaching students to perform at their highest level. We know that not every student will pursue music as a career; however, it is our hope that by holding themselves to a high standard in music our students will develop other valuable life-skills such as self-discipline, time management, collaboration, accountability, perseverance, and much more.

[Click on this link to read more about the benefits of arts education.](#)

## Parental Support

Parental support is a fundamental component of student success inside and outside the classroom. Furthermore, it is also a vital part of any successful school organization. We rely on parents to reinforce good habits in our students and to help with the band program directly. There will be several opportunities throughout the year for parents to volunteer, chaperone, help at concerts, etc. If you are interested in being a chaperone on a trip, please register as a volunteer with Pearland ISD.

[Click on this link to access the district's volunteer page.](#)

# Communication

*Email is the best way to contact us!*

Since we work at more than one campus, we will not always be available by phone. Furthermore, when we are at school, we are *always actively teaching*. If needed, you may email us to arrange a time to speak by phone. Our emails are listed below.

## **Chris Bennett**

*Director of Bands*

[bennettc@pearlandisd.org](mailto:bennettc@pearlandisd.org)

## **Matthew Hogan**

*Assistant Director of Bands*

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## **Halle Goodman**

*Assistant Director of Bands*

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## **Lou Boldrighini**

*Director of Percussion*

[boldrighinil@pearlandisd.org](mailto:boldrighinil@pearlandisd.org)

## **Student Communication**

We believe teachers and parents are responsible for helping students develop their professional communication skills so they can become effective communicators as adults. As such, we highly encourage students to advocate for themselves by contacting their teachers directly through Canvas or email if they have questions regarding their courses and assignments.

## **BAND App (iPhone or Android)**

The band program will be using the BAND App as the primary means of parent communication. Please download the app, create a profile, and sign up for a class using the class code provided by your band director.

## **Braces for Wind Players**

Any routine orthodontic work such as braces can pose some challenges in learning a brass or woodwind instrument. *Students can get braces and still be successful* on their instruments; however, we ask that you be mindful of the timing. For students who started learning an instrument without braces, it usually takes a few weeks to get adjusted to playing with braces. Likewise, when braces are removed, time is required to adapt to "a new face."

For this reason, we ask that you consider **not** getting braces nor removing them prior to important performances, contests, or auditions.

Please keep us informed of your plans concerning any orthodontic work. For band students, there is never a “good” time to get braces. Your band director can help you plan around important events to help your child be as successful as they can be.

## Governing Bodies

The policies and procedures of the Berry Miller Junior High Band program are subject to the following governing bodies:

- [Pearland Independent School District \(Pearland ISD\)](#)
- [Texas Education Agency \(TEA\)](#)
- [University Interscholastic League \(UIL\)](#)
- [Texas Music Educators Association](#)

## Curricular vs. Extracurricular

[The fine arts are defined as part of the “required curriculum” in state law.](#) The law distinguishes between “foundation curriculum” and “enrichment curriculum.” Foundation curriculum includes English language arts, math, science, and social studies. Enrichment curriculum includes physical education, the fine arts, and others. As part of the required curriculum, we must cover 100% of the [Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills \(TEKS\)](#) for music. As such, band is a curricular course. However, band students do participate in extracurricular activities that are associated with the course. Here is a brief summary of which activities are considered curricular and which ones are extracurricular.

### Curricular

All students are required to participate in the following activities even if they may be ineligible. Furthermore, a lack of participation in band will adversely affect their band grade and could jeopardize their eligibility for extracurricular opportunities associated with band and other activities.

- Daily Band Classes
- Any course work associated with band class
- Sectionals
- Masterclasses
- Listenings
- Before or After-School Rehearsals
- Band Concerts
- Solo Contest
- Pre-UIL
- UIL Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation

## Extracurricular

The following activities are considered extracurricular. As such, all students must be eligible as defined by the [TEA & UIL Side-by-Side](#) in order to participate in the following activities.

- Dawson Band Night
- Region Band Auditions
- Region Band Clinic & Concert
- Region Orchestra Clinic & Concert
- Band festivals such as Shadow Creek Showcase of Sound

## Academic Eligibility (No Pass No Play)

The TEA & UIL Side-by-Side states:

A student who receives, at the end of any grading period (after the first six weeks of the school year), a grade *below 70 in any class* (other than an identified class eligible for exemption) or a student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate in extracurricular activities for three school weeks. *An ineligible student may practice or rehearse, however.* The student regains eligibility after the seven-calendar day waiting period has ended following a grading period or the three-school week evaluation period when the principal and teachers determine that he or she has earned a passing grade (70 or above) in all classes, other than those that are exempted. (p. 3)

Please see the [Pearland ISD Eligibility Calendar](#) for more details.

## About the Course

### Description of Bands

The band classes at Berry Miller are structured to maximize students' musical growth. We offer four levels of instruction organized by band class.

- Honors Band
- Symphonic Band
- Concert Band 1
- Concert Band 2

Sixth and seventh grade students audition for placement into one of these four bands at the end of every school year. Eighth grade students participate in the high school audition process. Auditions will consist of music and scales. Audition music will be made available to students on a certain date (usually the beginning of May). Students will have a designated amount of time to prepare for their audition. Eighth grade audition music will be made available by the high school band directors.

## Band Placement

Band placement is determined not only by audition results but also work ethic, reliability, attendance, citizenship, and other factors. Once posted, band placements are considered final. Students may not re-audition.

Students keep their band placement for the entire year. On occasion during the school year, it becomes apparent that another band class is more suitable for the student. In this situation, the band directors will communicate with the counselors to discuss a schedule change. Please remember that factors outside the band program may also influence a schedule change.

## Required Supplies

### Band Binder

Band members receive a lot of sheet music throughout the year. Being organized is crucial to success in band class; therefore, all band students are required to have a band binder whose components are:

- A black 1.5 or 2 inch three-ring binder with pockets
- Pencil bag with three rings
- 5 sharpened pencils
- Highlighter
- Blank notebook paper, at least 10 sheets
- One set of 5-tab dividers (label them as follow):
  - Fundamentals
  - Scales and Technique
  - Daily Drill
  - Music
  - Private Lesson Material

Students will be given more details on how to organize their binder in band class. Students are expected to keep their binder always organized. We will conduct binder checks every nine weeks.

### Tuner-Metronome

All students must have a tuner/metronome. *We highly recommend the TonalEnergy App!* The app costs \$3.99 (most mechanical tuner/metronome combos can cost up to \$40) and is available for iOS, Android, and Amazon Apps. Not only is the app a less expensive option, but it also has features and capabilities that no other tuner/metronome has — such as sound generation and waveform analysis.

[Click here to learn more about the app and its features.](#)

### Personal Instrument

Students who play *flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, or trombone* must provide their own instrument. These can be rented from a local vendor such as Music & Arts. (Hopefully, you have kept your instrument from 6th grade). We highly recommend renting instead of purchasing as instruments are covered under a Liability Damage Waiver (LDW) during the rental term.

Clarinet and saxophone players are expected to buy their own reeds and have a set of three working reeds at their disposal at any given time.

*Pearland ISD does not provide insurance for personal property.* See your homeowner's insurance policy for possible coverage. You may also consider a company that specializes in musical instruments such as [Anderson Musical Instrument Insurance Solutions, LLC](#). Students are assigned individual band lockers for use during the school day. It is the student's responsibility to keep their instrument in their assigned locker. We recommended labeling the instrument case with your student's name. (Luggage tags work great for this!)

*All personal instruments must go home every day!* This is to ensure the safety of your personal property.

## **School-owned Instrument**

Pearland ISD provides instruments for students who play *oboe, bassoon, horn, euphonium, or tuba* for an annual rental fee of \$100 payable by semester. This fee covers the cost of routine maintenance and cleaning. Students are responsible for any maintenance costs incurred due to misuse. This fee is paid via SKYWARD.

Oboe and bassoon players are expected to buy their own reeds (you should purchase these from your private lessons teacher) and have a set of three working reeds at their disposal at any time.

Brass players must furnish their own mouthpiece.

*Important note.* Per district policy, students who play school-owned instruments are required to be enrolled in private lessons.

## **Percussion**

Percussion students must provide their own sticks, mallets, and practice pad and rent a practice marimba. Since percussionists also utilize school equipment, a \$50 rental fee is assessed each semester and are expected to be enrolled in private lessons.

## **Auxiliary Instruments**

There are a few instruments that Pearland ISD provides that are traditionally played by students who start on their own personal instruments. These auxiliary instruments are bass clarinet, contra-alto clarinet, tenor saxophone, and baritone saxophone. Being asked to play an auxiliary instrument is a great honor — only entrusted to the most responsible students — as these instruments provide unique colors to the ensemble.

## **Step-Up Instruments**

Beginner model instruments are great for the first year of band; however, there comes a point when students can be held back by the quality of their equipment. A *step-up instrument* is a higher-level — often professional — model instrument for advanced band students who play flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, or trombone. It is highly recommended that students who place in either the Honors or Symphonic band and plan to do band in high school get a step-up instrument. While we recommend

step-up instruments for advanced students, this should not discourage anyone who might be interested in them. Finding the right step-up instrument is a careful process. New and used professional models of instruments are widely available. Some possible places include local music stores such as Music & Arts, H&H, and Encore Pro. Often it is better to buy a used model in good condition of very high quality rather than a new model of lower quality.

We encourage you to reach out to us and your private lessons teacher to help you through this process. You might even contact the high school band directors as they might have former students who are looking to sell their professional model instruments.

## **Instrument Maintenance**

Students are expected to perform minor routine maintenance to keep their instruments in working condition as appropriate for their instrument. For brass players, this includes oiling valves and applying slide grease. For woodwinds, this includes (as appropriate) swabbing and applying cork grease.

### *Personal Instruments*

If an instrument appears to malfunction, contact the band director immediately. *Do not attempt to fix the instrument on your own.* If a director cannot solve the problem, then we will recommend a local instrument repair shop. (This is usually the same place that you are renting the instrument from. Your rental contract should cover the repair at no charge to you.) Our local vendors usually visit our school once a week. We can have them take the instrument with them and they will call you before making any repairs. If the repair is urgent — for example, your child has a performance or audition in the next few days — we recommend taking the instrument directly to the repair shop on your own.

### *School-owned Instruments*

As stated above, if an instrument appears to malfunction, *do not attempt to fix on your own.* Notify a band director immediately and we will handle the repair process for school-owned instruments.

## **Local Music Stores/Repair Shops**

Below are a few local music stores/repair shops that we recommend:

### **Music & Arts — Webster**

19335 Gulf Freeway 10

Webster, TX 77598

(281) 316-1724

<https://stores.musicarts.com/webster>

### **Music & Arts — Alvin**

2101 SH-35 S

Unit 103

Alvin, TX 77511

(281) 585-6731

<https://stores.musicarts.com/alvin>

## Required Fees

*Band Fee.* All band students must pay \$35 course fee. This fee is set by Pearland ISD and covers expenses such as clinicians, music, supplies, and band shirts. This fee must be paid via Skyward.

*Instrument Rental Fee.* As mentioned above, students who play school-owned instruments must pay an annual fee of \$100. This fee must be paid via Skyward.

## Uniform

All band students are required to have a formal uniform for concerts/performances and an informal uniform for band trips and other less formal events.

### Formal Concert Uniform

Students order the following items through our school-approved vendor. Students will be fitted for a tuxedo shirt early in the fall semester through First Chair Formal Wear.

- **Required:** White tuxedo shirt — \$26
- **Required:** Solid black bowtie — \$8
- **Required:** Solid black cummerbund — \$12
- *Highly Recommended:* Hemmed Tuxedo pants — \$48

Students must purchase the following items on their own.

- Solid black dress pants (if choosing not to purchase tuxedo pants from vendor)
- Solid black belt
- Solid black socks
- Solid black dress shoes (Girls: shoes must be *closed toe*)
- *Plain* white undershirt

### Informal Uniform

The informal uniform is the Berry Miller Junior High Band shirt. Every year, we purchase new shirts for the students. The band cost of the band shirt is covered by your band course fee.



# Course Requirements

## Practice Logs

Learning an instrument requires daily and consistent practice. For this reason, students will be submitting daily and weekly Practice Logs. Practice expectations are listed below:

### **Honors Band**

35 min/day or 245 min/week

### **Symphonic Band and Concert Band 1**

30 min/day or 210 min/week

### **Concert Band 2**

20 min/day or 140 min/week

Detailed rubrics will be made available and posted on Canvas.

## Recorded Assignments

Assessment is an important part of any academic class. It allows teachers to monitor students' growth and adjust instruction, as necessary. In addition to live playing tests, band students will have weekly recording assignments submitted through Canvas and SmartMusic.

### *Canvas*

Canvas is the learning management system (LMS) provided by the district. We will use Canvas to submit weekly Practice Logs, post instructional videos, and submit video recordings of playing tests. Every student in Pearland ISD should automatically have access to Canvas.

### *SmartMusic*

SmartMusic is a music practice and assessment software that has been purchased by the Fine Arts department. SmartMusic is unique in that it automatically grades student submissions and provides practice tools that are designed specifically for music. Students will have to set up their own SmartMusic accounts and join the correct "class" using a class code. Directors will send out class codes via email.

## Sectionals

Sectionals are a continuation of the like-instrument class setting from the first year of band where students playing the same instrument meet once a week to rehearse and learn as a section. In sectionals, we address instrument-specific concepts that cannot be taught in the full band setting. We also reinforce and refine concepts taught in band class. Sectionals are not just extra practice; they are a fundamental component of our curriculum. Students must attend sectionals regularly and consistently to continue their musical growth. *Sectional attendance is required for all band students and comprises a major portion of their grade.*

Sectionals will begin the second week of school for Honors Band, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band 1. Concert Band 2 will begin sectionals later in the year. Concert Band 2 parents and students will be notified at least two weeks prior sectionals starting.

We understand that students participate in other activities outside of school hours and every effort will be made to accommodate their schedules; however, there will inevitably be conflicts. These conflicts will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Directors should be notified of potential conflicts via email as soon as possible.

To accommodate our athletes, the sectional schedule often changes when we enter a new sports season. The band directors collaborate with the coaches to ensure that students can participate in band and sports. We promise that students will never miss a game or practice before a game.

Due to the limited amount of time, we have in sectionals, we ask for your cooperation in scheduling around them. There are nine other opportunities per week for things like doctor/dentist appointments. We have only one opportunity to teach your child instrument-specific concepts. If your child misses even one sectional, then they will have missed more than 10% of the material that they will cover in one grading period. We understand that emergencies and exceptional circumstances may arise. If this should happen, please email us as soon as possible explaining the situation and we will get back to you and plan for the sectional to be made up.

### *Honors Band Sectional Times*

- Morning: 7:00–8:30 am
- Afternoon: 4:05–5:35 pm

### *Concert Band 1 Sectional Times*

- Morning: 7:00–8:00am
- Afternoon: 4:05–5:05pm

### *Symphonic Band Sectional Times*

- Morning: 7:00–8:10 am
- Afternoon: 4:05–5:15 pm

### *Concert Band 2 Sectional Times*

- Morning: 30-minute sectional – times TBA
- Afternoon: 30-minute sectional – times TBA

### *Tutorials Band Students*

Students should utilize tutoring sessions held during Bobcat Hour to complete assignments, do revisions, or complete make-up work. In the event that a time in the morning or afternoon is needed, please email your sectional teacher if you are an Honors or Symphonic Band student. We want all our students to be academically successful!

## Listenings

During the course of the school year, students will periodically be required to sign up and attend a 10–15 minute individual help session called a "listening." During this time, band directors will work with the student on their region music, solos, or UIL music. This is a fantastic opportunity for directors to give specific and individualized feedback on a student's musical growth. *Listenings are required for all band students and are considered a major grade.* Students will select their own listening time slots via sign-up.

## Concerts

According to the [Music TEKS](#), students are expected to “demonstrate appropriate concert and stage etiquette as an informed, actively involved listener and performer during live and recorded performances in a variety of settings.” Concerts represent the culmination of our students’ hard work — the goal that we have all been working toward in a grading period. In many ways, this is analogous to a major exam on a particular unit in a math course. As such, *concert attendance is required for all band students and comprises a major portion of their grade.*

## Solo Contest

Part of the [Music TEKS](#) require that students perform alone and independently. To meet these requirements, Pearland ISD hosts an annual Solo Contest for all junior high band students. Students are required to pay an accompanist fee of \$30 directly to their pianist. More information about this event can be found [here](#).

# Grading Policy

## Daily Grades

Daily grades comprise 40% of the student’s total grade. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Practice Logs
- Participation
- Binder & Supply checks
- Locker checks
- Recorded assignments submitted via Canvas or SmartMusic
- Written assignments
- Other assignments as assigned by director

## **Major Grades**

Major grades comprise 60% of the student's total grade. These include, but are not limited to:

- Playing tests
- Written tests
- Sectional Attendance
- Before or After-School rehearsal attendance
- Listening Attendance
- Listening Mastery
- Concerts
- Solo contest
- Recorded tests submitted via Canvas or SmartMusic
- Other tests or projects as assigned by director

## **Missing/Late Assignments**

All missing/late assignments must be turned in by the end of each grading period. Students who turn in late or missing assignments will only be able to earn up to a 70. Exceptions to this include excused absences (either from school or band events) or prior communication with a band director.

No assignments will be accepted after the grading period has ended.

## **Attendance Policy**

The success of any ensemble is directly dependent on the contributions and efforts of its members. Band is a collaborative effort; therefore, any student's absence negatively affects their peers. As such, the following guidelines are put in place regarding activities outside the classroom where attendance is required.

### **Excused Absences**

In the event that a student must miss a scheduled rehearsal, sectional, or listening parents should notify a band director immediately via email. Absences may be excused at the discretion of the band directors under the following circumstances.

- Personal illness (student must have been absent from school that day)
- Family emergency
- Death in the family
- Medical appointments (documentation must be provided to directors to be excused)
- Other reasons of a serious nature deemed appropriate by the band director

Documentation for the absence is required to be excused. (This can be a parent email.)

Excused absences must be made up before the next scheduled sectional, listening, or rehearsal to receive full credit. In the rare circumstance that a student must miss a scheduled performance, band directors should be notified immediately via email. Students will be given an alternative assignment.

## Unexcused Absences

An absence will be considered unexcused unless a student obtains prior approval from a band director. Additionally, the following reasons are not valid excuses for missing a scheduled sectional, listening, or rehearsal.

- Any appointments without documentation
- Club meetings
- Extracurricular activities
- Missing the scheduled sectional or rehearsal

A student may make up **no more than two** unexcused sectionals, rehearsals, listenings, and/or concerts per nine weeks.

Unexcused absences may be made up for partial credit (70) and must be made up prior to the next scheduled sectional, listening, or rehearsal – this is the student's and parents' responsibility to communicate with the band directors to schedule.

Any unexcused sectionals, rehearsals, listenings, and/or concerts **past the allotted two per nine weeks** will result in an automatic zero with no opportunity for make up or extra credit. This allotment resets at the beginning of each nine weeks.

## Flexibility

It is our goal that all band students can participate fully in all their activities. As such, the band directors work closely with coaches and club sponsors to make a sectional schedule that allows students to attend everything. Please note that the sectional schedule often changes when sports seasons change because of different practice times and student participation. We guarantee that our athletes will never miss a game or practice before a game.

## Private Lessons

We are extremely fortunate to have an outstanding private lesson program at Berry Miller Junior High. Many of our teachers hold advanced degrees in music performance and are experts on their instruments. Some of our teachers even perform with professional orchestras such as the Houston Symphony! Private lessons are highly encouraged for all students regardless of their band placement. As mentioned above, *students who play school-owned instruments are required to take private lessons per district policy.*

[Click here for information about our private lesson staff and how to enroll.](#)

# Student Expectations

Above all, a Berry Miller Junior High band student should exhibit the highest standards of character, honesty, and integrity in everything that they do. Students are expected to follow all rules, policies, and procedures in the [Pearland ISD Student Handbook](#), the [Pearland ISD Student Code of Conduct](#), and those set forth here in the Band Handbook.

## Pillars of the Berry Miller Junior High School Band

- Be on time
- Be kind
- Be dependable
- Be prepared
- Be engaged
- Be polite
- Be coachable
- Be honest
- Be exceptional
- Be accountable
- Be proud, but never satisfied – get better EVERY single day!

## Rules

1. Be polite and respectful to all students, staff, and visitors.
2. Follow any instructions or directives the first time they are given.
3. Only touch/handle equipment you are authorized to use.
4. Only band students are allowed in the band hall.
5. Only percussion students are allowed in the percussion room.
6. Obtain permission before entering the director's office.
7. Only use external doors at appropriate times, do not open them without permission.
8. No food, drink, or gum in the band hall.

## Facilities and Equipment

We are extremely fortunate to have outstanding facilities and equipment. We want to keep everything in the best condition possible; therefore...

1. Band halls, ensemble rooms, practice rooms, and instrument lockers are to be kept clean.
2. Band lockers are for instruments only!
3. Keep instruments in cases with latches closed and locked in assigned lockers when not in use.
4. All instruments must go home every day! (Except for students who have a school-owned instrument assigned for home use.)
5. For those who do not rent a school-owned instrument, it is recommended that you keep a record of the serial number, make, and model at home.
6. Do not leave any instrument unattended outside of its locker.

7. Be extra cautious around the risers. Careless behavior will not be tolerated as it could result in severe injury.

## Classroom Procedures

The following procedures will help you understand how class runs on a daily basis. Except for very infrequent/special occasions, we will be playing/rehearsing every day.

### Entering the Room/Before Rehearsal

1. Enter the classroom in a silent and orderly fashion and put your backpacks in the designated areas. Then silently go to your locker.
2. Questions and/or talking to a director, unless in an emergency, is **NOT** permitted.
3. Remove your instrument from its case and put the case back in your locker when you have finished assembling your instrument. (Exceptions include flute, oboes, clarinets, and trumpets — who may take their cases with them to their seats and put them under their chairs.) This is extremely important because leaving cases on the floor is a safety hazard in emergency situations.
4. Place your case back in your locker and close and latch the locker door.
5. Quickly and silently find your seat using the aisles of the set up.
6. Students must be seated with all materials ready to go at a one minute after the tardy bell. Please see [Tardy Policy](#).

### During Rehearsal (H)

#### *"10-10 Rule"*

- In accordance with Berry Miller Junior High School's hallway expectations, **NO** students will be allowed to exit the classroom during the first 10 and last 10 minutes of a class period.

#### *Restroom*

- Students are encouraged to use the restroom during their passing period to maximize instructional time.
- Within the middle 30 minutes of a class period, a student may ask to use the restroom. Only **ONE** student is allowed out of the room at a time. Band directors do reserve the right to ask a student to wait until a better moment in the instructional period, i.e., student is asked to wait until explanation about an assignment, pertinent topic, or wait until the director is not working with your student's section, to use the restroom.
- Students must obtain a pass from the front of the band hall and must have the pass visible in the hallway during class periods.

#### *Perform the music to the best of your ability.*

1. Sit with correct posture (on the edge of the chair, feet flat on the floor, neutral spine, sloped shoulders, head high).
2. Hold your instrument properly.

*Demonstrate proper rehearsal etiquette.*

1. Bring all required supplies to rehearsal daily including band binder, instrument, maintenance supplies, mutes (brass, if required), or any other items deemed necessary by a director.
2. Follow all instructions given by any director without hesitation including — marking music, getting instrument ready, and playing when asked.
3. Be ready to play when the director is prepared to start the ensemble. (This means that your instrument should be in playing position with your embouchure set.)
4. Students are not permitted to talk during rehearsal unless given permission by a director.
5. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak if you have a question.
6. Minimize any extraneous noise. (Our medium is sound; therefore, any extra noise is a distraction from our hard work. Eliminate any unnecessary movement not needed for performing your instrument).
7. Transition efficiently. (Get out new music as quickly and silently as possible.)

### **After Rehearsal/Exiting the Room**

1. Perform the necessary preventative maintenance for your instrument.
2. Woodwinds: Swab your instrument to remove condensation that has built up during rehearsal.
3. Reed players: Always remove your reed from your mouthpiece and put it back in your reed guard. It is unsanitary to leave it attached to the mouthpiece.
4. Place your instrument back in its case correctly and return it to your locker quietly.
5. Exit the room in an orderly fashion. Do not run.

### **Before/After School**

1. Do not disturb any rehearsals or sectionals that may be happening while you drop off or pick up your instrument from your locker.
2. Students may use practice rooms so long as they are being productive — practicing, recording assignments, pass-offs, or private lessons.

### **Events Outside School**

For any event associated with school, students are held to the same expectations outlined in the [Pearland ISD Student Handbook](#), the [Pearland ISD Student Code of Conduct](#), and the Band Handbook. Students are subject to disciplinary action for any offense committed during an event associated with the school. Students are representing Berry Miller Junior High and Pearland ISD; therefore, we expect them to take this representation seriously and be the best representatives of our school and district. Students have additional expectations while traveling and during concert performances.



## Travel

1. Demonstrate respect for bus drivers and chaperones.
2. Follow any instructions given by bus drivers or chaperones immediately.
3. Keep noise at reasonable level while traveling.
4. Leave your seat/area cleaner than you found it.
5. Thank the bus driver and chaperones when exiting the bus.

## Performances

*As a performer.*

1. Follow all rules and procedures as you normally would during band class.
2. Show up to the warmup room early in designated uniform with instrument and music.
3. Transition from warm up room to stage silently.
4. Follow any directions given to you by a director.

*As an audience member.*

1. Be an attentive audience member.
2. Do not talk at all during a performance. (This includes whispering.)
3. Silence cell phone or any other devices.
4. Do not text during a performance.
5. Only clap when appropriate.
6. Do not shout or whistle.

## Transportation/Travel

### Bus Rules

The BMJH Band is a large group to mobilize. Consider all BMJH Band students, adult chaperones, and directors traveling to and from various events! It is necessary that each student understands and abides by the rules to facilitate this enormous task in the safest, most efficient way possible.

1. Follow all PISD bus rules posted at the front of each bus and use common sense (pick up all trash, do not sit in the aisles, do not stand while the bus is in motion, only sit two to a seat, etc.).
2. Upon arrival at destination remain seated until the director or designated adult chaperone has given instructions.
3. Directors, drivers, and chaperones have the authority to assign seating to any of the students on the bus in the event of disciplinary problems or failure to abide by bus rules by any individual(s). If needed, the entire bus convoy will stop to address any misconduct by any student. Please do not be the student that the entire convoy stops for.
4. Leave all buses clean of trash and personal belongings upon return. Each bus will have an assigned bus captain (typically a section leader). The captain will check to see if the bus has been cleared of all trash. If not, the bus captain will select students to help clean the bus. If selected to assist in bus cleaning, students should work quickly and efficiently to maximize their time to complete the task successfully.

5. Personal Media Devices **must be played with headphones on**. If one person can play their music loudly, so is everyone else, which distracts the rest of the bus. If needed, please plan, and bring the necessary splitters to share with the person next to you. The district, school, directors, and band boosters are not responsible in the event of loss or theft. The Band Director (not chaperone) will approve movies brought by students.
6. Any travel misconduct will be referred to the Band Directors. Again, if needed, the entire bus convoy will stop to address any misconduct by any student. Please do not be the student that the entire convoy stops for.
7. Remember, have a positive attitude and we will always have a GREAT trip.
8. Students must ride the PISD provided transportation to and from a band event. Exceptions will be made at the discretion of the directors and must be accompanied by the **PISD Alternate Transportation Form**. This form must be turned into the directors **24 hours prior** to the departure of the trip to ensure that the proper administrators' signatures may be collected.

## **Trips**

The Band will attend performances and educational events outside the Pearland area. This can be an overnight trip usually consisting of multiple nights or a single day trip. Each student is excused from classes for one or two school day(s) if needed (per PISD policy). To attend trips, students are required to be academically eligible (see No Pass, No Play rules). Please realize that when the director's plan each trip and each child is signed up to participate, the total cost is divided among all the students that will attend. Therefore, a refund will not be given if a student "backs out" of a trip or is ineligible to participate due to disciplinary action (school suspension, ISS, etc.). In addition, **students will not receive a refund for academic ineligibility**. Prior to the trip, an itinerary is made available to all members and parents, which will give all pertinent information concerning the trip. Portions of the fundraising done throughout the year will be used to help offset the cost of trips. The cost of the trip is determined on a yearly basis.

The following is the PISD Trip Regulations for overnight trips taken by musical organizations. We will comply and enforce these regulations, as they are from the PISD Administration and approved by the PISD Board of Trustees.

1. There will be no boys on girls' floors/rooms or girls on boys' floors/rooms for any reason. **Any student violating this rule for any reason will be sent home** at the parent's expense.
2. Students are not to be outside of their rooms after curfew for any reason. Students will be given a chaperone's telephone number to call in case of emergency. Any student in violation of this policy will be sent home at the parent's expense.
3. The possession or use of any tobacco products, alcohol products, drugs, chemicals, inhalants or any other intoxicants or mood-altering drugs is prohibited. **For any student violating this policy, a police report will be filed with the local police department, the student's parent will be contacted, and the student will be sent home and referred to his/her campus administrator. The student will be removed from the band program immediately.**
4. Students will turn in all medications to designated chaperone and/or nurse. Students will carry no medications unless approved, according to PISD Student Code of Conduct.
5. The student(s) involved will pay for any property damage.
6. Students are not to leave an assigned area for any reason or get into any vehicle other than school designated transportation.

7. Any student in violation of local or state laws will be turned over to the local law enforcement authorities. If the student is returned to the organization, he/she will be sent home.
8. Any student who excessively violates trip guidelines will be sent home at the discretion of the band directors.
9. Students will follow all policies set forth in the BMJH Handbook and follow common sense and good judgment. A student may be sent home for failure to use good judgment.
10. Violation of any of the rules listed above may result in permanent removal from the BMJH Band at the discretion of the band directors.
11. If a student must be sent home for any reason, the parent/guardian of the student agrees to pay the full cost of the student's return trip to Pearland, Texas. The parent/guardian of a student in violation of trip rules will provide appropriate information (credit card number, etc.) to the school district personnel in order that appropriate return transportation may be purchased.
12. Berry Miller JH, Band Directors, and chaperones are not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

### **Procedures for Sending a Student Home from a Trip**

1. The Director will call to obtain the schedule and cost for common carrier transportation (bus, airplane, etc.).
2. Student will make a call home to the parent or guardian. Prior to the student conversing with the parent/guardian, the director will inform the parent/guardian of their child's offense and that they are to be sent home.
3. Parent/guardian will be asked on which common carrier they would prefer their child to be placed for the trip home.
4. Parent/guardian will be informed of the time schedule and cost of the common carrier, which they will pay.
5. Parent/guardian may have the option of coming to pick up their child if they do not want their child to be sent home by common carrier.
6. Student will be immediately separated from the rest of the organization.

### **Other Events**

It is impossible to outline every conceivable situation. As such, students are expected to use their judgement to make safe, respectful, and responsible decisions knowing that they are representing more than themselves at any event outside of school.

## **Tardy Policy**

Per school policy, students must be physically present in the band hall by the time the tardy bell rings. (This means that their body must be beyond the doorway. Students are considered tardy even if they are only a few feet away outside the classroom.) Students who are not past the doorway by the time the tardy bell rings must then go to a tardy station for a tardy pass. This is a school-wide policy. For more information, please see the Berry Miller Junior High Student Handbook.

Students will have one minute after the tardy bell to be in their seat with all materials prepared for class. Failure to do this will result in necessary disciplinary action concerning classroom procedures.

# Consequences for Breaking Expectations

For minor offenses, the following system will be used.

1. Warning
2. Alternate In-Class Assignment and/or 30-minute Lunch Detention
3. After School Detention (1 hour) and/or Office Referral
4. Friday Detention (2 hours) and/or Office Referral
5. Permanent Removal from Band Program

Recurring and/or major offenses may result in an immediate office referral and/or permanent removal from the band program as appropriate.

## Trip & Performance Privileges

Participation on any band sponsored trip or in a performance is a privilege reserved for students who exhibit good behavior, citizenship, and teamwork. It is at the director's discretion to remove a student from any band sponsored trip or performance who the directors believe could negatively impact the ensemble or detract from the overall experience of the trip or performance.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- excessive and/or continuous disruptions of band class
- excessive and/or continuous detentions (band and school-wide)
- excessive and/or continuous office referrals (band and school-wide)
- ISS during the time of the trip or performance (UIL policy)
- OSS during the time of the trip or performance (UIL policy)
- or if a campus administrator requests a student not attend the trip or performance.

In the event that a student is removed from a trip due to disciplinary reasons, the family will receive a full refund for the cost of the trip via Skyward (provided the trip costs can be recouped from the vendors).

If a student is removed from a graded performance for disciplinary reasons, the student will receive an alternate assignment to earn full credit for the performance.

# Description of Events

Band students participate in various events throughout the year. Descriptions of these events can be found below. A calendar of required events will be sent out via email.

## Dawson Band Night

Every year, the 8th-grade students from Berry Miller perform in the stands with the Dawson Eagle Marching Band. All students and chaperones gain entry to the game free of charge. *The uniform for the event is our band shirt and jeans.* All band parents are highly encouraged to attend!

## Fall Concert

Our annual fall concert is the first major performance of the year for Berry Miller Honors, Symphonic, and Concert Band 1 members. *This performance is required for all band students* and comprises a major portion of the student's grade.

## Fall Recital

Our annual fall recital is the first major performance of the year for Berry Miller Concert Band 2 members. *This performance is required for all band students* and comprises a major portion of the student's grade.

## Region Music Masterclass

Every year, students attend a masterclass three weeks before Region Band auditions to help them prepare for the audition process. We hire highly qualified clinicians — often specialists on their instruments — to help students prepare their music and scales to the highest degree possible. *This event is required for Berry Miller Honors Band and Symphonic students* and highly encouraged for Concert Band 1 and Concert Band 2 students who are working on the region music.

## Region Band Auditions

Every fall Region 19 (TMEA) — which includes all schools in Pearland ISD, La Porte ISD, Barbers Hill ISD, and Deer Park ISD — hosts auditions for placement in one of three region ensembles: Region 19 Symphonic Band, Region 19 Concert Band, and Region 19 District Band. Additionally, students who place the highest in the audition process are also selected for Region Orchestra. The Region Band process is highly competitive and students who make Region Band are among the best players of their peers. For every year since 2012, Berry Miller Junior High has had more students earn spots in Region Band than any other school in our Region.

*This event is required for Berry Miller Honors Band and Symphonic students* and highly encouraged for Concert Band 1 and Concert Band 2 students.

## **Region Band Clinic & Concert**

Students who earn a spot in either Region Symphonic Band or Region Concert Band are invited to participate in a Clinic & Concert. Region 19 hires among the best music educators in our state to rehearse and present a concert with the students in their bands. This is an incredible experience for students who make Region Band as they get to rehearse and perform with the best players from other schools on challenging and exciting music. Parents and family are highly encouraged to attend!

## **Winter Concert**

Every December we present our annual Winter Concert. This is the second major performance of the year for all Berry Miller Honors, Symphonic, and Concert Band 1 members. *This performance is required for all band students* and comprises a major portion of the student's grade.

## **Winter Recital**

Every December we present our annual winter recital. This is the second major performance of the year for Berry Miller Concert Band 2 members. *This performance is required for all band students* and comprises a major portion of the student's grade.

## **Dawson Cluster Percussion Concert**

Every spring the Dawson Cluster Percussion program hosts a percussion ensemble concert. This concert highlights the entire percussion program from beginner band students to high school seniors.

## **Region Orchestra Clinic & Concert**

Students who place in the top chairs of the Region Band process are invited to perform with the Region 19 Orchestra. This invitation is one of the highest honors a junior band student can earn and is often the first time that they get to rehearse and perform with string instruments.

## **Pearland ISD Solo & Ensemble Contest**

Performing music independently is one of the most important skills that we can develop in our students. It is also one of the TEKS for music. For this reason, Pearland ISD hosts an annual Solo & Ensemble Contest for all junior high band students. Students independently perform a piece of music alone — usually accompanied by piano — for a judge who gives them a rating based on the quality of their performance/preparation. *All band students are required to perform a solo. Students must also pay a \$25 fee to their accompanist for rehearsals and performance.*

## **Incoming Freshman Parent Meeting — Dawson High School**

Every spring before course selections the Dawson High School band staff hosts an informational meeting for parents and 8th graders about high school band. We strongly encourage all 8th graders and their parents to attend before making any decisions about course selections for high school.

## Pearland ISD Pre-UIL Contest

In preparation for UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Evaluation, Pearland ISD hosts a Pre-UIL Contest for all Pearland ISD bands. The district hires expert judges to give us feedback on our bands' performances so that we can perform at the highest possible level at UIL. This contest also gives an opportunity to guide students through the sight-reading process so that they are familiar with it when we get to UIL. *This event is required for eligible Honors Band, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band 1 students.* All parents are highly encouraged to attend.

Students are expected to have mastery of their prepared music **AND** have attended at least 90% of the required band rehearsals, sectionals, and listenings from January until the Pre-UIL date.

## UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Evaluation

Every year bands across the state participate in their local UIL contests. Bands perform a selection of three pieces for three judges who give the performance a rating from *Superior (I)* to *Poor (V)*. After the stage performance, bands then participate in the sight-reading portion of the contest which consists of performing a brand-new piece of music that neither the students nor director have ever seen before. The performance — after a short study period where students are not allowed to play — is then rated on the same scale by three different judges. Bands that earn Superior (I) ratings in both the concert and sight-reading portions of the contest earn what is called a *Sweepstakes Award*.

*This event is the most important performance of the year for Symphonic Band and Concert Band 1* and is one of the most important performances for Honors band. Performances usually occur during the school day at a host school in Region 19. All parents are highly encouraged to attend if possible.

Students are expected to have mastery of their prepared music, have attended at least 90% of the required band rehearsals, sectionals, and listenings from January until the UIL date, **AND** performed in the Pre-UIL Contest.

## Local Festivals

Every spring, the Berry Miller bands participate in a local band festival like the Shadow Creek Showcase of Sound. In addition to receiving a rating for their performance like at UIL, bands at the festival also compete against each other for "Best in Class" in their division. All the Berry Miller bands have earned this distinction at least once — often multiple times — in our school's history. Information about performance dates and times will be made later.

## Recording Competitions

Every year, the Honors Band participates in a recording competition. On odd-numbered years this is the TMEA State Honor Band Contest. Bands submit a recording which competes at the Region, Area, and then State levels. The Honors band earned 5th place in 2023, 4th in 2019, and 9th in 2017 in Texas. Each year, we participate in the National Wind Band Honors Contest having been named a "National Winner" in 2016, 2018, 2019, 2022, and 2023.

## **Spring Concert**

Our annual Spring Concert is usually the last major performance of the year for Symphonic Band, Concert Band 1, and Concert Band 2. (Honors Band usually has one more recording concert after this). In many ways, this represents the culmination of all the skills we have been working on yearlong with the bands sounding their most mature. *This performance is required for all band students and comprises a major portion of their grade.*

## **Extra Fun Activities**

We expect our band students to develop not only their musical skills, but also their social skills. For this reason, we organize several fun short trips and activities every year. To participate in these trips, students must be in good standing academically, behaviorally, and otherwise in all their classes — not just band.

## **BMJH Band Spring Trip**

As a reward for their hard work and commitment all year long, we usually take one big trip every Spring. This year's spring trip will be to Six Flag's Fiesta Texas in San Antonio. Students will perform at the Bluebonnet Festival before enjoying the rest of the day in the theme park. Students will travel via charter buses. More information will be coming out at the band parent meeting in August.