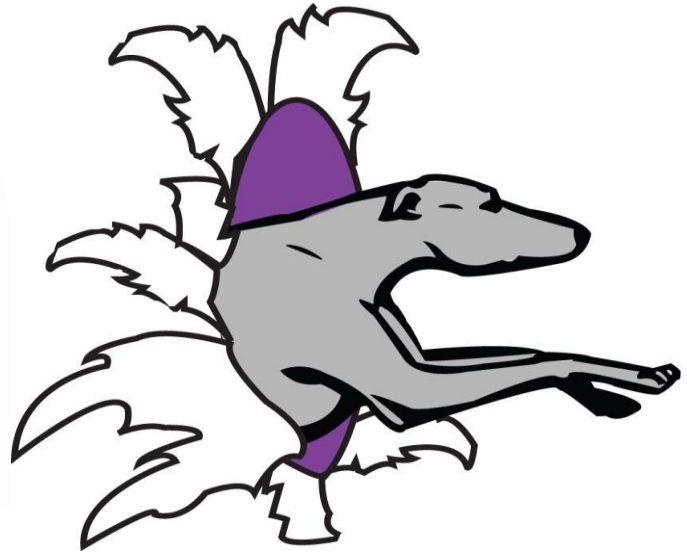


BAND HANDBOOK

BERTA CABAZA MIDDLE SCHOOL GREYPUP BAND



*“The way you do ANYTHING
is the way you do EVERYTHING!”*

Directors

James R. Spence

Amanda Chamberlain

David Jimenez

Greypup Band Mission Statement

The Berta Cabaza Middle Greypup Band's mission is to team with parents, students, school faculty and administrators to provide an atmosphere in which band members can be successful in learning and grow socially, academically, and musically. Through group involvement, students will develop a sense of community and an ability to work together to achieve goals and develop self-discipline. We believe that music education is an integral part of a student's comprehensive education and that participation in a music program will move, inspire, and change the lives of students.

"Where words fail, MUSIC speaks." -Hans Christian Andersen



General Information

Welcome to the Berta Cabaza Middle School Greypup Band Program! We are very excited about the possibilities for our program this year and are looking forward to furthering the successful tradition of excellence within our program!

By choosing to participate in the band program, you agree to ALWAYS rehearse and perform to the best of your abilities and work together with the band directors to make our program the absolute best it can be. We expect all of our students to come to class each day with mature, responsible attitudes. We also ask that all members report promptly to rehearsals, classes, and performances. Students may be required to maintain a practice record of how much time is spent practicing their instrument OUTSIDE of class time.

The success of any program is largely dependent on the pride, dedication, and hard work of its members. Certain rules, policies, and procedures are set in place in order to ensure that the overall goals of the band program are met and the needs of each individual student are served. The Band Directors have developed the policies and procedures in this handbook in order to best assist our students to excel in their musical education.

Course Description

The courses offered through the BCMS Band Program are:

- Wind Ensemble
- Symphonic Band
- Concert Band
- Beginner Band

Students are placed in bands by the band staff based on prior auditions/playing tests, record of achievements within the BCMS and San Benito Community (All Region, etc.), and overall behavior, performance etiquette, and demeanor. Any student, regardless of grade level who has no

band experience will be placed in Beginner Band. If a student fails to meet the minimum performance requirements for a Varsity band, they may be asked to REPEAT their Beginner Band year. Eligibility and Discipline are MAJOR factors in determining placement in bands. Students should always strive to make sure they are passing ALL of their classes and remain in good standing within the Band Program and with the BCMS Campus as a whole.

General Band Hall Rules

1. No outside food, drinks, gum, or candy are allowed in the band hall except when authorized by a director. (Students may have a water bottle during rehearsals.)
2. All trash is to be disposed of before you leave the band hall. All chairs and stands must be put away as well. If you take it out, you put it away.
3. Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every band member is expected to assist in monitoring and controlling this. Acts of vandalism include, but are not limited to: writing or carving on walls, destroying music, and writing on music stands or chairs.
4. The Music Library and back storage room are off limits to students unless permission is given from a director. The Tuba storage room and Percussion storage room are for Percussionists and Directors ONLY.
5. Practice rooms and small ensemble rooms are for practicing only, not social gatherings. These rooms will only be opened by a director and students will be responsible for the proper use of these facilities.
6. If you are in the Band Hall at any time, you MUST be practicing! This includes the hallways that join the Band Hall and Choir Hall. You should only be in the instrument storage areas if you are retrieving your instrument. If you are caught repeatedly wandering around any of these areas, you may lose privileges to be in the Band Hall before and after school and/or your eligibility for the end of the year trip.

Rules for Band Rehearsals

1. Have ALL materials necessary for your instrument before rehearsal begins. (Instrument, reeds, oils, sheet music, pencil)
2. Be in your seat READY TO PLAY ONE MINUTE after the tardy bell rings.
3. Absolutely NO TALKING during rehearsals.

General Conduct of Band Members

Any organization is judged in the eyes of the public by the conduct of its individual members. Whenever students are wearing anything that represents Berta Cabaza Middle School or the BCMS Band (shirt, jackets, polos, etc.), their actions reflect the reputation of the entire band program. Any behavior that is deemed in violation of the accepted code of conduct set forth by the school, administration, band directors, or civil authorities is grounds for reassignment or removal from the band program. ALWAYS strive to conduct yourself in a manner that will bring credit to you and the program. Remember, don't just meet the standard, BE the standard!

Performance Etiquette

The Band program is showcased various times throughout the year via parades, concerts, etc. These events are opportunities for our students to perform for the public. The Band Directors will select dates, times, and sites for these performances.

Students will be given guidelines and lessons for behavior, appropriate dress, etc. prior to each performance. Students must adhere to guidelines regarding conduct, eligibility, and appearance in order to be allowed to participate in these performances. Remember, that you lead the entire audience by your example. If you behave inappropriately at a performance, you may be asked to leave and you will not receive credit for the performance.

ALL BAND PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY!

Concert Absences

1. Unexcused Absences

-Points lost due to an unexcused absence cannot be made up. The points lost will result in a significant reduction in a student's grade.

-Notice must be given at **LEAST TWO WEEKS** prior to a performance if a student is unable to attend. Excuses such as "I had to babysit," "I could not find a ride," "I didn't have clothes," "I forgot," etc. **will not be accepted.**

2. Excused Absences

-Excused absences occur when sudden illness, death in the immediate family, or emergencies arise. In these cases, please make contact with the band director **PRIOR** to the concert. If the office phone is not answered, please leave a detailed message.

-In the event of an excused absence, points must be made up via make up assignments that will be given in class. **It is the responsibility of the STUDENT to see the director for make-up work.**

Concert Dress

Students will be given a list of acceptable items to wear for each performance. Failure to attend with proper attire may result in the student being sent home and will not be allowed to participate. This may result in a grade of ZERO for that performance.

Football Games/Parades

Members of the band program may be asked to perform at football games and at least two community parades (Homecoming and Christmas). Remember, we are always a reflection of the music program and BCMS as a whole. The following procedures apply for these types of performances:

1. Always wear the proper & approved attire as set forth by the Band Directors and school dress

- code.
2. Always sit/remain in designated areas until a director asks you to move. Never leave a given area without permission from a director.
 3. Do not take unauthorized food or drinks during games or parades.
Parents: Please do not give your students food during a game or parade.
 4. Only authorized Band Personnel are allowed in the band seating/staging areas.
 5. Always treat visitors, other directors, other band members, and guests politely at all times.
 6. Always play musically. Just because we are outside does not mean that we should play any differently than we do when we are in our own rehearsal hall. We are here to make MUSIC, not noise.

Travel

For events throughout the year, all band members will travel by school approved transportation to and from each event. If other arrangements are necessary, a written request must be made to the Band Director at least ONE WEEK PRIOR to the event. Even when prior arrangements are made, band students will ONLY be released to their parents. NO EXCEPTIONS! For UIL contest, students MUST travel together by bus to and from the event.

When traveling by bus, students will adhere to the same rules and guidelines they would if they were in the classroom. When returning from activities, students will need to make sure they secure a ride home in a timely manner. Designated times will be set for return to the BCMS campus. **Directors will remain for 30 minutes after this time, at which point, SBCISD guidelines for getting an unaccompanied student home will be enforced.**

School Owned Equipment and Instrument Repair

School owned instruments are checked out to students at no cost. The proper care and maintenance of musical instruments and equipment is vital to the success of any band program. The care and safety of all band equipment, both school owned and student owned, is the responsibility of the individual student.

School owned instruments are issued to students in good, working condition. Any damage incurred will be assessed by a professional repairman. **Excessive or unnecessary damage to a school owned instrument can result in the student being responsible for payment.** NEVER ALLOW ANYONE TO HANDLE YOUR INSTRUMENT! YOU COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAMAGE THEY CAUSE! As a general rule, if it is not YOUR instrument, you shouldn't be touching it.

Accessories such as reeds, cork grease, valve oil, drum sticks, mallets, slide oils, are purchased by the school and offered to students at a discount.

Grading

Students receive a numerical grade on each progress report and report card given by the district. The BCMS grading system is based on class participation and daily preparation, quality of individual performance and knowledge of music (playing and theory tests), attendance at all performances and

after school sectionals/rehearsals, and overall attitude and performance. Students are expected to play in class EVERY DAY. If a student is not participating in class, they will receive a grade of ZERO for that day.

Spring Band Trip

Each year, students in the BCMS Band program are rewarded for their hard work and dedication with an incentive trip. The destination of the trip is chosen by the Band Directors each year. In order to participate in the trip students must meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

1. Turn in Handbook Signature page on time
2. Fulfill all financial obligations on time (reed balances, trip balances)
3. Turn in all paperwork necessary (medical release forms, permission slips)
4. Must be eligible for **AND** participate in UIL Concert/Sightreading Evaluation (VARSITY)
5. Must be academically eligible for majority of events throughout the year
6. Must be in good standing with both the band program and BC Middle School (No ISS, No PRC)

Any exceptions will be left to the discretion of the Band Directors

Daily Music Supplies

Students in the BCMS Band Program will be responsible for the having following items with them in class each day:

1. **Individual instrument and accessories (No instrument, No grade)**
2. **1” BLACK 3 ring binder (used to hold all music)**
3. **Pencil (standard or mechanical, but no pens)**
4. **Tuner (optional)**

Contact Information

BCMS Band Hall Office: 956-361-6615

BCMS Fax: 956-361-6608

Mr. Spence – jrspence@sbcisd.net

Ms. Chamberlain – aschamberlain@sbcisd.net

Mr. Jimenez – djimenez2@sbcisd.net

Stay in touch and know what’s going on with REMIND!

For students and parents who have mobile phones with texting capabilities:

Beginner Band Members/Parents: Text @**bcbegin** to 81010

7th/8th Grade Band Members/Parents: Text @**bcband1819** to 81010

This will enroll you in our text announcement circle, which will update you about upcoming concerts, rehearsals, etc. This is a free service, if you can send and receive text messages for free on your phone, it is no cost to you!

We look forward to an exciting and productive school year! Don't forget:

Follow us on Instagram: @bcmsgreypupband

GREYPUPS TODAY, GREYHOUNDS TOMORROW!

Your first assignment is to read through this handbook with your parents and bring in this page signed! It's like a free 100!

BAND HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE

I have received, reviewed and understand the policies and guidelines in the Berta Cabaza Middle School Greypup Band Handbook. I further agree to abide by the procedures set forth. I understand that policies contained within are subject to change at any time with the approval of the Band Directors and BCMS Administration.

Student Name _____
(print)

Student Signature _____

Grade _____

Class Period _____

I have received and reviewed the BCMS Band Handbook. I agree to allow my child to participate in the Band program and understand that they will be expected to abide by the rules, policies, and procedures contained within.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Date : _____