

Dear Parent(s)

Welcome to the 2009-2010 edition of the Bronco Band Program at Barbara Bush Middle School. I hope that you are entering the Bronco Band with a sense of pride and enthusiasm. The Bronco Bands have made great strides in the past few years and have received much recognition. The Bands received good comments from the judges at their contest. The Symphonic Band and the Concert Bands received Sweepstakes ratings from the judges at the Region 24 UIL Band Contest and at the Peak Music Festival. The BBMS Band has had at least two of their selections advance to the State Level competition of the Outstanding Performance Series since 2004. In 2005, our march, Coast Guards March, was ranked first in the State OPS competition and in 2006 we were ranked first in the State OPS competition for Lincolnshire Posy (Mvt. 1). This past year, both the Symphonic Band and the Concert Band had selections advance to the State OPS competition. You can go to the Band's website and see the information about this great feat.

Nothing great can be created without hard work and determination. I know that you want your child to be a part of a great program and you are willing to guide your child in putting forth the effort to arrive at that goal.

Please take a few minutes to look through this handbook with your son or daughter. The following pages are guidelines and rules that will help us arrive at our goal. Please read these procedures.

We look forward to watching the growth of our program this year and if I can help you in any way, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Darrell Crowder

Dave Henning

Directors, Barbara Bush Middle School Band

Course Description

Sixth Grade Band

This course concentrates on those fundamentals that a student needs to learn during the first year in band. The student does not need any prior musical experience. This class meets daily and gives the student an introduction to the musical language and basic music theory. Students must go through an interview with the director to help place him/her on the correct instrument.

Cadet Band

This course is for seventh and eighth grade students, beginning and experienced students. It is similar to the Sixth Grade Band Class in that it concentrates on those fundamentals that a student needs to learn in order to be successful in band. The student does not need any prior musical experience. This class gives the student an introduction to the musical language, rehearsal skills and basic music theory. Students must go through an interview with the director to help place him/her on the correct instrument. Cadet Band runs concurrent with Concert Band and frequently, students move up during the year.

Concert Band

This band is made up of students who have completed at least one year of training on their instrument. Students are selected for the Concert Band based upon audition and their past performance in the band program. All members of this group are strongly encouraged to audition for the All-Region Band and participate in the Solo & Ensemble Festival. Members are required to participate in all school performances, unless excused by the Director. Members are strongly encouraged to take part in the Enrichment Program. The Director will assign sectionals as needed to help the student progress to the next level of performance.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is the top-performing band at Barbara Bush Middle School. Students are selected for this group based upon their audition, their ability to demonstrate an advanced proficiency on their instrument and their past performance in the band program. Members of this group should participate in the All-Region Band and the BBMS Solo & Ensemble Festival. Members are required to participate in all school performances, unless excused by the Director. Members are strongly encouraged to take part in the Enrichment Program. The Director will assign sectionals as needed to help the student progress to the next level of performance.

Code of Conduct

The ultimate goal of our Code of Conduct is to help the student develop the self-discipline necessary to succeed. The purpose of our plan is to create an environment that enhances the learning of all members and provides for the safety of the students. This plan is based upon the premise that every student has a right to participate in the learning process. Responsibility for the appropriate behavior lies directly with each individual student.

This year, Barbara Bush Middle School will be using the 'Make Your Day Program'. This is a discipline based program and all Directors will use this program for our classroom management.

No one has the right to interfere with the learning, safety, or well-being of others.

In Band, being 'RESPONSIBLE', 'RESPECTFUL' and 'READY TO LEARN' includes:

1. Students will have all needed equipment at their chair with them at the start of the class. This includes their instrument, pencil, folder of music, school planner, reeds, valve oil or other items needed during rehearsal.
2. Students are not allowed to play on someone else's instrument. This especially applies to the school-owned instruments. Students are expected to be careful with all school equipment.
3. Students will not be allowed to talk during rehearsal without permission from the Director. Talking keeps other students from hearing instructions and from learning. Students should raise their hand before speaking out.
4. Students will follow all instructions the first time they are given. Students should respond in a positive manner to the teachers as well as other students.
5. Students will keep their hands and feet to themselves.
6. Students will not bring food, drinks, candy or chewing gum in the band hall without permission from one of the Band Directors. Chewing gum during rehearsal is prohibited and could result in disciplinary action.

Grading

Summative Grades (60%)

Test grades include, but are not limited to the following:

- Playing/Chair tests given in class or with Smart Music
- Music pass off for UIL or other contest (outside of class time)
- Other written or playing assignments as indicated by the Director
- Attendance at major sectionals and performances

Formative Grades (40%)

Since our Band is an effort and participation class, daily grades are assessed for each rehearsal. Students that do not perform or display sufficient effort and preparation will be graded accordingly. Being prepared for band includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Being in the right place, at the right time, with all necessary equipment (planner, music, pencil, instrument in playing condition, reeds, mouthpiece, etc.)
- Attendance at all performances and rehearsals.

Please make an effort to schedule doctor appointments and other such activities at times that do not conflict. Calendars are available on our website with the performance dates and times. We can work around an emergency when it is handled correctly.

If you know you have a conflict, please contact one of the directors before the conflict. We will work together to find a solution to the conflict. Communication prior to the activity is very important and it will help ensure that the band will operate smoothly.

Sectionals

Sectionals for both the Concert and Symphonic Bands will meet before or after school. These activities are co-curricular and will count as part of their grade. These dates will be posted on the band's website and given to the students if assigned. Also, the students will have them marked in their planner. These are designed to help the student progress at a faster pace. During these sectionals, we will be covering the material to be tested in class. If the student needs to miss their assigned sectional time, they should follow these guidelines:

- Contact the Director one day **prior** to the sectional.
- Schedule a make-up time for the missed sectional.

With Director approval, students can make up a missed sectional by attending a sectional that is scheduled for another group on another day.

Quiz Grades

Quiz grades are received from minor tests given in class or for work sent home for completion and returned.

Care of Equipment and Facilities

School-Owned Instruments

Students that are issued school-owned instruments are responsible for the care and upkeep of that instrument. These instruments are available to the students for a maintenance/cleaning fee of five dollars per month (\$5/month) or forty-five dollars for the year (\$45 per year). School equipment is issued in good-working condition and is expected to be maintained and returned in that condition. Damage to equipment (other than normal wear and tear), will be the responsibility of the student. School instruments that are lost must be replaced at the student's expense. We strongly urge you to provide adequate coverage for theft, damage, vandalism, neglect or malicious damage. Upon request, the Director can provide you information concerning insurance policies to cover damage or theft.

Instruments that are not in working condition make it impossible for a student to contribute to the group and earn a passing grade for the class. It is very important that all instruments be kept in the best playing condition as students regularly compete for solos, chairs and grades. Since many parents work, the Director can arrange to have the instrument sent to the shop for repair and returned to the school. The expense for the repairs should be paid to the Band as soon as possible. Checks for repairs should be made payable to Music and Arts.

Instrument and Music Storage

All school and student-owned instruments must be kept in the appropriate storage area. Each student will be assigned an instrument slot for his or her instrument. Do not leave equipment lying out in the band hall. Do not touch or move another student's equipment. Music folders must be kept in the appropriate music slot. The school does not accept responsibility for instruments that are damaged or are misplaced.

Music Notebook

All students will need a one and one-half inch (1 ½") binder to hold their entire band book, music, materials and IB work. Organization and upkeep of this binder will be counted as part of their class work grade. In addition to the notebook, the 7th and 8th grade student will be given plastic sleeves to keep the music in while not being used. We will use these notebooks throughout the year during rehearsals and performances. Each student is financially responsible for lost music. The color of the binder will be determined when school starts.

Practice Rooms

The practice rooms and ensemble rooms are for practicing only. Students are not allowed to gather in those rooms to visit. Since we share these rooms with members of the other performing ensembles at our school, you may have to share a room. Chairs and music stands should be returned if you move them from one room to another. Students should not leave instruments, music or personal items in these rooms.

Band Hall Equipment

Students will be expected to maintain the equipment of the Band. Students should not write on any equipment, including music stands. If you knock over a chair or stand, please pick it up. Take pride in our equipment and facilities. Please do not leave trash lying around the band hall.

Smart Music

What is SmartMusic?

SmartMusic is an interactive, computer-based practice system that provides students a richly personalized learning experience. SmartMusic students progress rapidly thanks to skill-building methods, stimulating practice exercises, helpful assessment tools, and accompaniments for more than 30,000 titles.

With SmartMusic loaded on a computer, students plug in an instrumental microphone and begin practicing. They play their part with accompaniment and receive, in real time on the computer, detailed feedback on their performance. This software is ideal for woodwind and brass musicians of all levels.

Get more from home practice

Instant feedback and assessment tools help the student master material faster. As students play or sing, SmartMusic shows students how well they've performed. Correct notes appear on the screen in green. Wrong notes and rhythms display in red, and indicate if the note was played early or late. Fingering charts for every note appear on demand with a mouse-click.

With Smart Music's built-in assessment tools, students see their mistakes and how to correct them. As they practice, students see their SmartMusic grade climb higher and higher as red notes disappear and the screen fills with correct green notes. SmartMusic eliminates the danger that students will unknowingly repeat a mistake over and over again until their next lesson with an instructor. SmartMusic helps students improve each time they play.

Develop technical skills quickly

With a diverse collection of exercises, SmartMusic dramatically accelerates students' development of fundamental skills, from technique to intonation to ensemble sensitivity. Students can practice any piece at any tempo – practicing slowly at first, and gradually building speed and proficiency.

Gain the confidence to perform and solo

SmartMusic students like how they sound and look forward to demonstrating their talent and skill in concert and at contest. With SmartMusic, students can practice solo parts with accompaniment every day and in private. As they improve, they hear it in their SmartMusic recordings. Soon they're confident in how they sound and excited to perform a solo or go to contest.

Improve listening skills

With accompaniments for more than 30,000 titles, SmartMusic simulates a rehearsal environment and encourages students to listen to fellow musicians. Students play their individual part while listening to the piece as a whole in a rich musical environment that makes practicing fun and engaging.

Students can even record themselves using SmartMusic. They can review recordings to hear which things they need to improve. Recordings are especially helpful for exposing pitch and other ensemble problems. SmartMusic makes it easy to record just a measure or two, allowing students to focus on an interval or difficult passage. Recordings help students identify weak spots and make adjustments while practicing on their own. Plus, students love to make their own CDs with SmartMusic!

How can I get SmartMusic on my home computer?

To purchase SmartMusic at home, you first need to receive the special code from one of the Bush Band Staff. This code reduces the subscription price to \$30 a year - a savings of \$105 compared to the regular price.

Enrichment Program

Private instruction can greatly enhance your musical experience and ability. A secret to the success of many successful band programs is the large participation of its' members in the private lesson program. The CFBISD music faculty would like to strongly encourage you, if possible, to take part in private lessons. We will find you a qualified instructor for your instrument. That teacher will help you child with the music for their class, playing or taped test, the All-District and All-Region music and Solo & Ensemble music. Whenever possible, these lessons are given during your band rehearsal time or your Advisory Time. Sometimes, it becomes necessary to have those lessons outside of the school day at BBMS or Ranchview High School. If you are interested in this program, please contact the Director for a form and more information on private lessons.

Band Booster Club

The Barbara Bush Middle School Band Booster (BBMS Boosters) was formed to help enhance our band program. The money they raise through our fund raising activities is used to benefit all members of the program. We have elect officers and several chairmen that help gather up our supporters and channel their efforts in making our band program get stronger. Parents are used as chaperons for some of the trips, help with parties and our fund raising activities. Please be watching for the first meeting of the school year. If you are interested in serving the BBMS Boosters, please contact the Director.

Concert Dress

When our bands perform in public, all of the students are expected to dress in a uniform manner. The Band's appearance gives the audience and/or the judges their first impression of the Bronco Band. If any student has a problem acquiring the proper uniform, please contact the Band Director so special arrangements can be made. The students will be told which of our two uniforms we will be wearing.

Informal Concert Dress - Band Shirt

We will use the BBMS red, Polo-style shirt for the 2009-10 school year. This shirt can be purchased through BBMS for eight dollars (\$12.00). ***The Band Shirt will serve as our band uniform at the Pep Rallies, football games, and some concerts.*** We will wear the Band Shirt, khaki pants and shoes for some of our informal concerts and yearbook pictures. All band members will wear this shirt at various activities during the school year.

Formal Concert Dress

Members of the **Symphonic Band** will need to purchase a uniform that conforms with the required uniform. The boys will wear all black. They must have black dress slacks, socks and dress shoes and a long-sleeve black dress shirt. The Band will supply the tie to be worn with the uniform. The girls will wear all black. They can wear a long black dress or black dress slacks and a black blouse. The uniform should not have other colors mixed in with the uniform. At our contests, it is important that we have a consistent uniform. Students will not be allowed to wear tennis shoes as a part of the Formal Uniform. **The Symphonic Band will wear this uniform for the first time at the Winter Concert in December.**

Members of the **Concert Band** will need to wear the following uniform at specified performances. The boys will wear dress slacks and shirt with a tie. They are required to have dress shoes (no tennis shoes allowed). The girls may wear a long dress (mid-calf length) or dress slacks and a nice blouse with dress shoes (no tennis shoes allowed). It is recommended that the girls wear dark colors. **The Concert Band will wear this uniform for the first time at the Winter Concert in December.**

Member of the **Sixth Grade Band** will wear the casual uniform listed above at all performances. **The Sixth Grade Band will wear this uniform for the first time at the Winter Concert in December.**

If you purchase the dress shoes in November or December, the student should be able to wear them for the remainder of the school year.

Students that fail to wear the proper uniform could be excluded from that performance.

Communication Is The Key to Success

I want to keep both parents and students informed of all activities. Only with everyone present and participating can we hope to reach our full potential.

Barbara Bush Middle School Band
Darrell Crowder
Dave Henning
515 Cowboys Parkway
Irving, TX 75063-8728

Band Office Phone: 972-968-3790
email address: crowderd@cfbisd.edu
email address: henningd@cfbisd.edu

The BBMS Band has a website. You can find it at the following address:

<http://cfbstaff.cfbisd.edu/crowderd/default.htm>

On our webpage, you will be able to find a calendar of events, announcements about test, performances, deadlines, copies of letters given to the students (on the Booster's page), etc. I hope that you will visit our homepage regularly. If you have any suggestions, please email them to us.

Bronco Band Calendar 2009-2010

Dates and times are subject to change. Please contact the Band Director if you have a conflict.

August

24 First Day of School

September

7 Labor Day Holiday – No School

8 Private Lessons begin

8 Handbook forms due

14 Band Fundraiser begins

18 **Band night for 8th Grade members @ Standridge Stadium (required)**

25 Fundraiser forms and money (cash only – no checks) are due back at school

October

12 Fair Day – No School

November

23-27 Thanksgiving Holiday – No School

December

4 *All-Region MS Auditions for 7th & 8th Grade members @ Bush MS – Band parents needed to work the event*

15 **Winter Concert @ BBMS – 7:00 p.m. – All Bands**

21-Jan. 1 Winter Holidays

January

4 Classes resume

13-15 Semester Exams early release days

15-16 All-Region Clinic for 7th & 8th Grade members @ Pottsboro HS

18 District Holiday – No School

19 Staff Development - No School

29 Tentative date for Bronco Round-up – select members of the Symphonic and Concert Bands will perform – Casual uniform

February

- 8 Taste of Ranchview Band performance @ RHS – All Bands
- 10-13 TMEA Convention – Music Staff
- 15 Tentative date for Spring Fundraiser (if needed)
- 25 *Tentative date for Pre-UIL Contest for 7th & 8th Bands @ RHS***
- 26 Fundraiser forms and money (cash only – no checks) are due back at school

March

- 15-19 Spring Break – No School
- 29-30 *UIL Non-Varsity Contest @ Little Elm HS – Concert Band only***
- 31 *UIL Varsity Contest @ Wakeland HS - Symphonic Band only***

April

- 1 *UIL Varsity Contest @ Wakeland HS - Symphonic Band only***
- 2 2nd Bad Weather Day – No school

May

- 13 Tentative date for Springfest Band Contest for Symphonic and Concert Bands @ Murchison Hall in Denton, TX – concert uniforms required
- 18 Spring Concert @ BBMS – 7:00 p.m. – Required of All Bands – Concert uniforms required
- 22 Tentative Date for trip to Six Flags
- 28 1st Bad Weather Day – No school
- 31 Memorial Day – No School

June

- 1 - 3 Final Exams – Early Release

Handbook Acknowledgment

This form must be in by September 8, 2009

I have viewed the BBMS Band Handbook online or have received a copy of the Handbook and I have read and understand the policies and guidelines stated therein.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Student Name *Printed*

Band Period

Bronco Band Information Sheet

*This form is our very first Quiz grade.
This form is due no later than Friday, September 8, 2009.*

PLEASE PRINT

Student's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____

Parent's Cell phone: _____

Work phone: _____

E-mail Address (Parent): _____

E-mail Address (Student): _____

Interested in Enrichment Program (Private Lessons):

Circle One:

Yes

No

This section will be completed by the Band Staff

Instrument: _____

Brand: _____

Serial Number: _____