Berwick Area Middle School

7th & 8th Grade Band

Student Handbook

2016-17



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**PLEASE FILL OUT THE LAST PAGE OF THIS HANDBOOK AND RETURN THE REQUIRED ITEMS NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH. THANK YOU!**

**www.BerwickMSMusic.weebly.com**

**Section 1** – Introduction/Philosophy Statement--------------------------------------

WELCOME!

I believe that all students can benefit from being exposed to the wonders and joys of music! Music education is a vital component of a school curriculum for many reasons, one being that it serves to compliment other subject areas, such as reading, social studies, and math. Yes, music literally makes you smarter, and there is plenty of research to prove it. Music in itself teaches self-expression, self-discipline, time-management, problem solving, coordination, and confidence. It’s also a great way to get involved in the community and make friends. I could go on and on and on!

It isn’t my goal to train you to become music teachers or professional performers. (Although that would be pretty cool.) We hope to help you develop an appreciation of music, become educated consumers of music, support music in your community, and continue loving music your whole life!

I look forward to a fantastic year of music making.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rynhart

**Section 2** – Teacher--------------------------------------------------------------------------

1) The teacher will provide a positive learning environment in which all students can learn. This will be achieved through thorough planning, specific attainable goals and daily enforcement of school and band discipline policies.

2) The teacher will provide different teaching methods to reach the different learning styles of students in the classroom (visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile).

3) The teacher will help students reach their fullest potential by setting high standards, providing an environment that is safe, and also encourage risk-taking.

4) Mrs. Rynhart is a teacher--not just a band director. Schools exist to prepare students for life after school. It is the job of the teacher not only to teach the subject matter required, but also to enforce school and classroom rules and policies.

5) The teacher will communicate to students, and give plenty of notice before assignments, playing tests and performances. Expectations will be clearly stated with the use of the website, forms sent home, calendars, and discussions. Many of these expectations can be found in this handbook.

**Section 3** – Student--------------------------------------------------------------------------

1) Students will come to class prepared. Preparedness is defined as follows:

a. Students will come to class with all materials necessary to effectively participate in band. This includes but is not limited to your instrument, a pencil, all music and any other materials needed to participate in class. (This includes instrument reeds, valve oil, etc.) It is impossible to "make up" a rehearsal involving a full band if you are absent or unprepared.

b. Students will come to class ready to learn. Come to class with an appropriate mindset and attitude. You decide whether or not you will be successful.

c. Students will practice on their own time. **Practicing is mandatory.**

2) Students will follow school and classroom rules. The band room rules will be posted in the band room and in this handbook. School rules are published in the school handbooks and on the school website.

3) Students will remain a positive representative of Berwick and obey all school rules while participating in school trips and functions both on and off campus.

**Section 4** – Classroom Rules and Consequences-------------------------------------

The band room rules are as follows:

Rule 1: When arriving to the band room, students are not to run or raise their voice above Level 1, as defined in the school handbook. The band room is still a classroom.

Rule 2: No food, drink, gum, etc. Water bottles with water in them are an exception, as long as there is a lid.

Rule 3: Students must do their part in keeping the band room clean and orderly. This means ensuring your section is clean after rehearsal, putting away supplies, and keeping instruments in your bin. Students must keep their personal bin clean at all times, no exceptions.

Rule 4: Students are only allowed to touch their own instruments. Other students’ school instruments are off limits, including percussion.

Rule 5: Only appropriate noises should be made on instruments. Students will receive only one warning in regards to this rule.

Rule 5: Students will follow all school handbook rules at all times. This applies both on and off school campus.

**The band room consequences are as follows:**

1st offense – Verbal warning

2nd offense - Silent lunch

3rd offense – Discipline referral, conference with Guardian(s)

**Section 5** – Grading Policy------------------------------------------------------------------

Band is a class, it is *not* an extra-curricular activity. Students do not receive grades, they earn them. The grade you earn will reflect your level of preparation before and during and after rehearsals. Your grade in band will be a composite of points earned during rehearsals, playing tests and performances.

Participation (In-School Rehearsals/Lessons) 50%

Playing Tests/Assignments 25%

Performances 25%

**PARTICIPATION 50%**

Every rehearsal will be worth 10 points:

* 2 pts. – Instrument
* 2 pts. – Music
* 1 pt. – Supplies (reeds, oils, neck straps, sticks, etc, pencil)

\*\*\*Students are to ask for the above items within the first 5 minutes of class.

* 2 pts. – Positive Behavior
* 2 pts. -- Meaningful Participation
* 1 pt. -- Personal Responsibility

In-School Lessons will be worth 5 points

* Every week that a student attends their lesson, they receive 5 points.
* Lessons will be on the SAME DAY each week.
* If they cannot attend their lesson, they must get their lesson log signed by the appropriate teacher. They can show this to Mrs. Rynhart within a week. Students should NOT attend a lesson if they are failing a class or taking a test. If they get their log signed, they receive the 5 points.
* *Students will not miss the same class more than ONCE a month.*
* If a student acts out during a lesson and has to return to class, the student will receive 0 points.

*Cont’d next page…*

**PLAYING TESTS/ASSIGNMENTS 25%**

Playing tests will be rubric-based. These rubrics will be discussed in rehearsal and made available to students prior to the playing test.

**PERFORMANCES 25%**

Performances are part of your band grade, and your peers depend on your attendance; after all, these concerts are what we work toward all year.

**You must provide a written notice to the teacher at least two weeks before a missed performance with an excuse deemed acceptable by the band director and Principal.** Performances cannot be made up. If you end up missing the performance and have an excuse that is deemed acceptable, students must either perform the music in front of their peers or in front of select faculty members. (The audience, time and place will be determined by the band director.) The student will likely play along with Mrs. Rynhart; no one will be forced to play by themselves. The performance will be recorded and graded with the use of a rubric, and this grade will replace the zero that was given for missing the performance.

We expect 100% participation at all performances. There are only a few. Please add them to your calendars.

**Section 6** – Classroom Procedures-------------------------------------------------------

Please enter the classroom with a purpose! There is enough time to come in, grab your musical supplies and go to your assigned seat. Attendance will be taken **5 minutes** into class to give time for rehearsal prep. Rehearsal goals will be listed on the board. Please take note of our goals and prepare to achieve them.

**Tardy**

The teacher will take attendance at 5 minutes into class. If you are not in your assigned seat when attendance is being taken, you are tardy.

**Bathroom Policy**

If students are coming to band directly from homeroom/lunch, they are expected to use the bathroom during those times, and will not be permitted before class. In other cases, the teacher may allow students to use the bathroom as long as they ask within the first three minutes of class. The teacher will determine if bathroom privileges are being abused.

**Rehearsal Etiquette**

Students that need repairs done to their instrument will notify the teacher before rehearsal starts or as soon as the problem occurs. Students may only ask for reeds, valve oil, or other supplies, within the first five minutes of rehearsal. Requests will not be granted after that time frame until class is dismissed, for the sake of the rehearsal.

When the teacher is standing on the podium, rehearsal has started and it is time to work. Talking, playing, or any other behavior that will distract from the rehearsal will stop for the remainder of the rehearsal. Students may raise their hand at any time to ask a question; there will be plenty of opportunities for discussion.

**Storage Room Etiquette**

Students will be assigned an area to store their instrument during the school day. Students are also allowed to keep instruments at the school overnight. THIS IS A PRIVILEGE. Students are responsible for making sure their cubby is clean. Only instrument cases and supplies that fit in cases will be allowed in the storage area. Food is prohibited I the band storage room and the band rehearsal space. If students do not follow these rules they will lose their privilege.

**Band Room Equipment**

The equipment in the band room is very hard to replace. School band instruments and equipment are school property. Students using school band instruments and equipment will be responsible for any damage not attributable to normal wear and tear. Persons found to be incorrectly handling or abusing school property will be dealt with immediately with a referral, and will no longer be able to access the equipment.

**Section 9 --** Marching Band

Marching Band is part of the Middle School Curriculum, and therefore students are *required* to participate. Marching Band includes 7th and 8th graders only.

Students are required to purchase a Berwick Band t-shirt, as it is our uniform for parades and performances. It is $7. Students also must own their own lyre and flip folder, which can be purchased from Mrs. Rynhart for $5 total. In all, students should pay cash or check (payable to Berwick Middle School Band) to Mrs. Rynhart for $12. No other purchases need to be made.

Performances include the Halloween Parade, Band Night, and the Memorial Day Parade. Please see the calendar for more information.

**Section 9** – Quitting Policy

At the beginning of the school year, students will have until October 14th to remove band from their schedule. After this time period ends, students cannot quit band without a conference with the band director, Principal (or designee), and Parent/Guardian. After a discussion and approval from the Principal, the student can then be removed. Data will be collected as to why the student quit, for future success of the program.

All materials belonging to the Middle School Band Room must be returned promptly, as they are Berwick Area School District Property. If renting an instrument, it is the sole responsibility of the student to make arrangements to return items.

Students will automatically be placed in band the following school year (until they reach 8th grade) if the above meeting does not take place. A student that wishes to drop band may wait until the first 4 weeks of the following school year to drop without a meeting.

**Section 10** – Parent/Guardian Consent-------------------------------------------------

This handbook is meant to ensure that we have a very productive, educational, and rewarding year. Please sign the next page and return to the band room NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th.

Also, please sign and return the attached permission form, medical form, and photo release forms. The permission form is going to be used for all field trips the band will go on this year. (Information on these trips will be announced well ahead of time.) The medical form is for the safety of your child on those trips.

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE IF YOU WISH TO BE A CHAPERONE:**

The 7th and 8th graders will be going on a big field trip in May (Music in the Parks). If you wish to be considered as a chaperone, **YOU MUST HAVE YOUR CLEARANCES**. This is required for everyone by the new law! Clearances are good for 5 years. Mrs. Rynhart MUST have a copy of each clearance.

**THE MIDDLE SCHOOL BERWICK BAND WEBSITE:**

www.berwickmsmusic.weebly.com

Any handouts given to the students are posted under “DOWNLOADS”. You will even find a blog, a gallery, an updated calendar, weather cancellations, lesson calendars… everything that you will ever need to know will be posted here.

**COMMUNICATION:**

We use e-mail as our primary way of communication, so please make sure that your e-mail is correct! If you would prefer a different method, please say so on the form, and we will accommodate that request.

You can also use the website! Any form that is given to students will be on the website under “DOWNLOADS”, even this handbook!

***Please sign the last page (students and parents) to indicate that you have read and understand the expectations and are aware of the schedule; return it to Mrs. Rynhart no later than Friday, September 16th.***

**Parental support is one of the *most important* factors in the success of any band student!**

**-----(Please return to Mrs. Rynhart NO LATER THAN Friday, September 16th)-----**

**\*\*\*\*\*FOR STUDENTS:**

**I have read and understand the “Band Student Handbook”. I agree to follow the rules**

**and expectations.**

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**Student Name (printed neatly)**

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 **Student Signature Date**

**\*\*\*\*\*FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS:**

* **Yes, my student will be in attendance during the final assessments. (These are the performances; they are listed in BOLD on the calendar.)**
* **My child cannot make the following date(s) on the calendar: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AREA BAND STUDENT HANDBOOK FOR 2016-17**

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**Parent/Guardian Name (printed)**

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**Parent/Guardian Signature Date**