

SCRANTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

2023-2024 Student and Parent **BAND BOOK**

Mrs. Jennifer E. Evans, Director



After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.
~Aldous Huxley

Music is your own experience, your thoughts, your wisdom. If you don't live it, it won't
come out of your horn.
~Charlie Parker

THE BAND BOOK

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SCRANTON MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

Dear Scranton Band Students and Parents,

September 2023

It is with great excitement that I welcome your family to the Scranton Middle School band program. You play a vital role in the musical education of your child, and you can be successful at this even if you don't believe yourself to be musical! Supporting your child at home is easy and fun — if you can teach them to wash dishes, you can help them develop a healthy practice routine at home, and I will assist you along the way. In the meantime, there are only a few things you need to keep in mind to ensure that your child enjoys music as part of their life for years to come:

1. **Treasure the escape from “high-stakes” studies.** It seems that everywhere we turn, academic expectations run higher and panic begins to set in: about acing the exam, not marring the transcript, or keeping up with “high-achieving” peers. Playing a musical instrument helps parents pull their children off this fast track, if even for a moment, and not worry that other children will wind up “ahead.” Instrumental music gives children the room to find their genuine passions, the freedom to discover true independence, and the space to fail and bounce back. They will become *better people* this year through their musical studies.
2. **Embrace the “offline” time.** Your child's ability to become a deep and complex person relies so much upon their ability to build their attention span. In our lightning-fast digital world, children do not have enough opportunity to build understanding and intelligence through mindful solitary activities. Musical instrument instruction facilitates this offline “slow world” learning and brings children together in a unique, “unplugged” ensemble when they have band class.
3. **Understand that your child's instrumental music experience is just as (if not more) crucial to their growth as human beings than any other subject.** Music is much more than a “special” or a “frill” subject — it is a *core subject*, and it should be approached that way by *all of us*. When taught with healthy rigor, it is often the most enjoyable subject during the school day, and the home practice should be treated as an essential part of the homework routine. When taught well and *minimally* supported at home, the craft of learning a musical instrument develops *fortitude*, *willpower*, and *metacognitive skills* that parents stay up at night hoping their children have when they grow up.
4. **Don't let your child quit too soon.** All children are capable of enjoying a successful K-12 music experience with a little support. By not letting your child quit, you are sending a clear message to everyone in our school system that you believe playing a musical instrument cultivates crucial “non-cognitive” skills that matter so much in the grown-up world. Spend 5-10 minutes a night helping your child create a practice routine and they will be far less likely to become frustrated and quit too early in their studies.
(Borrowed from *The Music Parents Guide* website)

Once again, welcome to another great school year. I hope you are looking forward to your student's outstanding musical achievements!

Musically yours,

Jennifer E. Evans, Director, Scranton Middle School Bands

Brighton High School Marching Band Director EVANSJE@brightonk12.com, 810.299.3714

COURSE DESCRIPTION

7th and 8th Grade Bands

These courses are designed for students who have had one or more years experience playing a band instrument, or have successfully auditioned for placement in the band.

Students will:

1. Learn the basic fundamentals of intermediate instrumental music.
2. Foster a desire for continued musical experiences.
3. Acquire an appreciation for diverse types and styles of music.
4. Participate in music making both as an individual and as a member of an ensemble.
5. Learn that emotional expression as a part of normal healthy living can be enhanced by music.
6. Become acquainted with the history of music form, the design of music, the symbolism of the musical score, tonal and other characteristics of musical instruments, the combination of instruments, and the role of various composers in several historical periods.

COURSE REQUIREMENT: Students should come to class with an instrument, pencil, highlighter, planner, band book, BLACK 3-ring binder (1-inch), band music, and proper supplies (i.e. reeds, valve oil, etc.).

HOMEWORK and EXTRA HELP: It is the expectation that students will practice at home a minimum of 100 minutes per week. Students will be responsible for out of class assignments as given. Additional help is available through private lessons. Individual help after school will be available on a limited basis. Written homework may be assigned at a minimum of once a week.

GRADING POLICY: See Grade Contract (pg. 5)

EXTRA CREDIT: Students are encouraged to attend performances that will advance their musical understanding/appreciation. Extra credit will be given for those performances that are a level *equal to* or *higher* than the students' grade level (i.e. 7th grade or above). Musicals, other instrumental or vocal concerts, and recitals are excellent examples of acceptable experiences for earning extra credit. Private lessons are also worth extra credit. Students will be required to have their private lesson instructor complete a check-in form and then turn it in to Mrs. Evans.

FEEDBACK TO STUDENTS: Through daily listening by the instructor, assignments on Google Classroom and other in class and online submissions, the student will often receive verbal and written feedback.

MAKEUP WORK: Extensive absences will require extra practice time and possibly additional requirements.

GRADE CONTRACT

7th and 8th Grade Bands

The grade in band will be based on a 70/30 format: 70% of the student's grade will be based on their **PARTICIPATION**, inside and outside of class; 30% of the student's grade will be based on individual **GROWTH** and **ASSESSMENT**.

- **PARTICIPATION** - 70%

Participation-50%*

Each student will be given 12 points at the beginning of each class period. Points will be deducted as follows: forgotten instrument, missing reed/mouthpiece/sticks: -6 points; missing music binder, music, and/or band book: -3 points; missing pencil, highlighter, and/or planner: -3 points; talking, inappropriate behavior and/or posture or effort: determined by the director.

** Because of the nature of this course, misbehavior in class will negatively affect a student's grade as well as their citizenship mark.*

Performances-20%

As performing ensembles, attendance at performances is essential to our success. Each scheduled performance is the culminating evaluation experience of the student's participation in the band. In this sense, each performance serves as an end-of-unit evaluation (exam).

Attendance at ALL performances is required.

- **GROWTH and ASSESSMENT** - 30%

Playing Tests

Playing Tests will consist of scales, music, and material from our daily lessons. In lieu of practice sheets, students will submit playing examples through Google Classroom and/or perform live in class at a minimum of every two weeks.

Scale tests must be taken in class. Scales may always be retaken for a better grade. Scales should be played ascending and descending in the quarter-eighth note pattern and every note must be tongued. The metronome marking (speed) will be determined by the director.

Percussionists will be tested on scales *and* rudiments. A list of rudiments will be distributed the first month of class. Percussionists will be responsible for memorizing and correctly demonstrating rudiments. Percussionists must use alternate sticking for scales and play in the manner explained above, and use indicated sticking for rudiments.

Scales (Concert Pitch)	7th Grade	8th Grade
First Quarter	B-flat, E-flat, F	B-flat, E-flat, F
Second Quarter	C, A-flat, c minor-melodic	G, A-flat, C, a minor-melodic, c minor-melodic, g minor-melodic
Third Quarter	G, g minor-melodic, (CLARINETS ONLY) B-flat 2 octaves	D-flat, f minor-melodic, e minor-melodic Chromatic (2 octaves)
Fourth Quarter	Chromatic, 1 of above (director's choice)	Any 2 of the above (director's choice)

Worksheets and other written assignments

Music theory worksheets will be distributed weekly/bi-weekly. Students are expected to complete and return the worksheets the next day. Points will be deducted for late and/or incomplete work. Other written assignments will be distributed at the teacher's discretion.

CHALLENGES (8TH GRADE ONLY)

The purpose of Challenges is to improve the playing ability of the ensemble through friendly competition.

Setting up the Challenge:

The challenger must-

1. Challenges must take place in chair order (i.e. fourth chair can only challenge third chair, then move up the section),
2. Completely fill out the challenge form,
3. Get it signed by the challengee and,
4. Turn it into the appropriate box.

Challenge slips without the appropriate signatures will not be accepted. Likewise if the challengee refuses to sign the slip they challenger/challengee will meet with the director to discuss an alternative. Challenges will be scheduled on a first-come first-served basis.

- Challenges will be scheduled within one week after the form has been turned in.
- Challenges will occur before or after school as arranged through the director.
- Challenges will NOT occur within two weeks of a performance.
- Challenges will NOT occur during the daily class time.

Each Challenge will consist of:

1. A selection chosen by the challenger. This selection must be noted on the form.
 - This selection should be a piece of music, page from a method book, or other materials worked on in class. The students and/or director will determine sections to be played.
 - If the challenge is between players on different parts, the higher part should be used by both players.
2. Scales and sight-reading may also be used as selected by the director.
3. In case of a tie there are two options which will be discussed immediately with the students:
 - A. The director may immediately select a sight-reading piece for both players OR
 - B. The CHALLENGEE maintains their chair.

Judging Criteria:

- The rubric used for chair placements will also be used for challenges.

Other Notes:

- Challenges will be conducted in such a manner as to hide the identity of the performers.
- Results and feedback of the challenge will be shared with both players immediately.
- If the CHALLENGER is the winner, he/she will immediately move up to the new chair. He/she has the right to immediately submit a challenge form for the person seated one chair ahead of him/her. The CHALLENGEE would move down one chair. If the CHALLENGEE is the winner, he/she will maintain the chair. The CHALLENGER must wait ONE (1) week before challenging back.
- All of these rules must be followed carefully.

UNIFORM INFORMATION

In order for our bands to perform properly their appearance must look professional. Students who are dressed appropriately for performances have greater focus and stage presence. **Students not conforming with the dress code completely will not be allowed to perform unless the situation can be immediately rectified. If the uniform issue cannot be resolved, the student will not be permitted to perform, resulting in a lowered grade.**

7th grade bow ties & vests and 8th grade bow ties & cummerbunds will be issued after the uniform cleaning fee has been submitted to Mrs. Evans. 7th grade band students (and any 8th grade band students who need to replace their shirt) will be fitted during the month of September for their required tuxedo shirt. A representative from Brighton Tux Shop will measure students during their band class. Mrs. Evans will then place the order for the shirts; students will have them in time for the first concert. Tuxedo shirts cost **\$20.00**. All band students have a uniform cleaning fee (for the vest, bowtie and cummerbund) of **\$10.00** that must be paid prior to the issuance of the uniform. Once a uniform has been assigned the student is responsible for it until it is returned after the final performance. Please do not wash the bowtie, vest, or cummerbund. These must be professionally dry-cleaned.

The performance dress code is as follows:

7th Grade Band	8th Grade Band
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Black dress pants/slacks/skirt (no jeans, no leggings, no sweatpants)● White tuxedo shirt● Black socks (with pants) or black nylons or tights (with skirt)● Black shoes (all black, no tennis shoes)● Black bow tie● Black Band Vest● If a student wears clothing underneath their tux shirt, it must be <u>white</u>.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Black dress pants/slacks/skirt (no jeans, no leggings, no sweatpants)● White tuxedo shirt● Black socks (with pants) or black nylons or tights (with skirt)● Black shoes (all black, no tennis shoes)● Black bow tie● Black Cummerbund● If a student wears clothing underneath their tux shirt, it must be <u>white</u>.

When our bands appear in public at performances, they should represent Scranton Middle School and Brighton Bands in a positive manner by their appearance as well as by their musicianship. Our appearance depends on each student looking his or her best. Students must be in **complete** uniform at every public performance unless otherwise noted. It is essential that all vests stay clean and pressed. All tuxedo shirts should be free of wrinkles.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

The school provides storage areas for certain large instruments. These areas are used by over 175 students a day and therefore cannot be 100% secure. Brighton Area Schools does not accept any responsibility for instruments that are damaged, lost, or stolen while in the storage room. You are asked to do everything possible to safeguard your investment. It is for this reason as well as for space concerns that I encourage smaller instruments (flutes, clarinets, oboes) to be stored in student lockers.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS*

Scranton Bands has a limited supply of larger, more expensive instruments. These instruments are checked out each year in the fall and are the responsibility of the student until they are returned in the spring. It is expected that the students provide their own mouthpiece or reeds. School mouthpieces are not provided with most instruments. Reeds can be purchased through Mrs. Evans at an additional cost.

***NOTE: There is a \$50.00 non-refundable rental fee for a school-owned instrument. Due to the high cost of maintenance and repair this fee is required in order for a student to check out a school-owned instrument for the school year.** (Effective AUGUST 2019)

PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS**

Scranton Bands supplies standard percussion equipment. In the event this equipment is damaged due to improper use or deliberate abuse, repair costs will be charged to the responsible student(s). I highly encourage students to purchase personal equipment such as a snare drum, bell kit, and a supply of mallets (snare sticks, bell mallets (soft yarn, medium yarn, hard yarn, hard rubber, plastic), and timpani) and a mallet bag to properly protect the mallets. Select mallets, sticks, and mallet bags can be purchased through Mrs. Evans at an additional cost.

****NOTE: There is a \$50.00 non-refundable usage fee for percussion. Due to the high cost of maintenance and repair of percussion instruments and replacement of percussion mallets and instruments, this fee is required in order for a student to participate in the percussion section for the school year.** (Effective AUGUST 2019)

MUSIC, BAND BOOKS, 3-RING BINDER

Music and band books should be kept in a BLACK 3-ring binder. Students are asked to purchase a BLACK 3-ring binder and page protectors for their music. Damage or loss of music/band book will result in a fine to cover damage/replacement costs. See Mrs. Evans to replace any of the provided materials.

TAG DAY SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year in early October the Brighton Band Department raises money for band students through an activity called Tag Days. Any band student wishing to be eligible for a scholarship must participate in Tag Days. Scholarships are approximately \$125.00 and can be used to defray the costs of private lessons or a summer music camp (Blue Lake, Interlochen). The application process will be announced in the fall. Only those students participating in Tag Day are eligible to apply for a Tag Day scholarship. Scholarship recipients will be announced at the Holiday Concert.

PERFORMANCES

The dates of each performance are provided to you in this document. This is done to allow you ample time to clear schedules and make other arrangements when possible. I appreciate all the efforts made to clear individual calendars as schedule changes made by me affect the school district calendar. Aside from obvious excused absences caused by illness or family emergency, there is also a Brighton Band Department policy regarding the process used in excuse of absences. This policy is standard in the area of the performing arts such as choir, dance, and drama, as well as other performance activities such as athletics. This policy states:

1. **School curricular events** take priority over extra-curricular events (Band performances are a required component of the class and are therefore curricular).
2. **Performance always takes priority over rehearsals** (including dress rehearsals). Although inconvenient, rehearsals can always be made up; a performance cannot.

An absence request form is located at the back of this band book. The form is required in order for a student to be considered for an excused absence from a performance. Failure to submit this form will result in the student receiving a lowered grade/no grade for a performance.

If a student must be absent from a performance, the student will be required to perform all of their music in its entirety in order to receive a grade for the performance. The student will use a recording device at school and submit their recording electronically within one week of the missed performance date.

I do my best to accommodate students whose schedules fall in conflict with extra rehearsals or activities scheduled by me. It is my hope that other sponsors, directors and coaches would be equally as accommodating. In the event that a sponsor/coach does not abide by the policy stated above, please do not place the student in the middle of the misunderstanding; place the adult responsible in direct contact with me.

PERFORMANCE PROCEDURE

During the warm-up period, prior to the actual performance, it is important for students to assume their role at the proper time as attendance will be taken punctually. Late arrival for the warm-up will result in an "unexcused tardy." This mark will be taken into consideration when determining the performance and participation portion of the student's quarterly grade.

It is common courtesy and an expectation that parents, family, and guests remain and listen to the entire performance, regardless of whether or not your student has already performed. Students will not be dismissed until the performance has concluded and all equipment (stands, chairs, podium, instruments) is returned to its proper place.

Percussionists are required to pack up the percussion equipment and properly store it prior to being dismissed from a performance.

INSTRUMENTAL CLINIC

7th and 8th grade band

The Scranton Bands will be participating in the MMEA (Michigan Music Educators Association) Instrumental Clinic. This clinic is an opportunity for the students to perform prepared music for adjudicators, receive a mini-clinic, and observe other bands performing within our ability level. Verbal and written feedback will be provided to both the director and the students as well as a recording of our performance.

Needless to say, this will be one of our most important performances of the year. This is a **REQUIRED** performance. Specific information such as times, number of chaperones needed, etc. will be forthcoming as we approach the band clinic.

NOTE: Because of the special nature of this event, extra rehearsals may be necessary.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

Solo and Ensemble Festival is an **OPTIONAL** event sponsored by the MSBOA (Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association). Solo and Ensemble Festival occurs in December. Students participate not as a band, but as a soloist with piano accompaniment (percussion soloists do not need a piano accompanist) or as a member of a small ensemble (2-6 players). A professional adjudicator evaluates students on their prepared performance of a select piece of appropriate musical literature. Students pay a fee to participate. ***(Students may only register for up to 3 events, with the approval of the band director)***

Private lessons for Solo and Ensemble participants are highly recommended (and are at the expense of the parent/student) and may be required in some cases. Also, as a means of preparation, a Pre-Solo and Ensemble Recital may be scheduled. This event usually occurs a week or two prior to the Festival. Students who prepare a solo must have piano accompaniment, which is an additional cost covered by the parent/student. Information will be provided in September for the Fall S/E Festival. Students are highly encouraged to secure their own accompanist and begin rehearsing with them as soon as they can play their selection(s) accurately and with few mistakes.

BRIGHTON BAND BOOSTERS

The Brighton Band Boosters Organization is a group of volunteers who are vital to the success of each of the Brighton Bands. They provide assistance both through volunteering at band events as well as through financial contributions, which enhance the educational opportunities for each of the students that comprise the Brighton Area Schools Band Program. Specific to Scranton Bands, the Band Boosters sponsor Tag Days and a spring fundraiser to help defray the cost of Marching Band Camp for 8th Grade Band students continuing into the High School Band Program. As a family with a student enrolled in Brighton Bands you are automatically a member of this group. It is my hope that as a middle school band parent, you will take an active role in this organization. Band Booster meetings occur the first Monday of each month during the school year at 7:00 p.m. in the Brighton High School Band Room. Please contact me if you are interested in being a liaison. www.brightonbandboosters.org

BAND RULES

1. Follow the **Golden Rule**: Treat others as you wish to be treated.
2. Gum, food, candy, and drink (other than water) are not permitted in class.
3. A director, student director, band officer, or other adult on the podium or with a hand raised is the signal for immediate quiet.
4. Come to class prepared with:
 - a. Instrument
 - b. BLACK band binder, band book(s), and music
 - c. Proper and working equipment (mouthpiece, reeds, etc.)
 - d. Planner, pencil, and highlighter
 - e. #1 Attitude
5. **Electronic devices**: while we may be using electronic devices on any given day, students are not to use personal devices in the band room during band class.
6. When a student's instrument is in the shop for repair, a repair receipt must be provided to the director when their instrument returns from the shop in order to have the time they were without an instrument *NOT* count against their grade.
7. If a student is in class but unable to participate due to health reasons, the student should finger along so as not to fall further behind. A doctor's note is required for illnesses or injury beyond three (3) days. Supplementary assignments may be provided to the student in order to keep them engaged in the learning process.

SCRANTON BANDS REQUEST FOR ABSENCE

The purpose of this form is to notify the director if you will be missing a required band event. The dates of the required performances are provided in this band book. This form is to be turned in **at least two weeks prior** to the date of the performance you are requesting to be excused from.

By submitting this form you are **NOT** automatically excused. Your request will be considered and evaluated based on criteria established by the Scranton Bands and the Brighton Board of Education.

We have read the above statements and agree to the terms thereof.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Date

Student Name (please print)

Performance Date (MM/DD/YY)

Reason for absence:

FOR DIRECTOR USE ONLY

Date received _____

_____Excused

_____Partially Excused

_____Unexcused

BAND CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023-2024

The following is the band calendar for the school year. While these dates are subject to change, please plan for these dates and mark them on your calendar now. You will be notified of any changes as they occur. Please remember: if you need to be absent from a performance you must turn in a Request for Absence form at least two weeks prior to the performance.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sept. 5	MSBOA All-State Registration open, MSBOA Fall Solo and Ensemble Registration open	7, 8		
Oct. 2	MSBOA All-State Registration due, MSBOA Fall Solo and Ensemble Registration due	7, 8		
Oct. 18	FALL CONCERT	ALL	BCPA**	7:00 pm
Oct. 21 & 22	MSBOA All-State Auditions	7, 8	Walled Lake Northern HS	TBD
Dec. 1	MSBOA All-State acceptance/fees due	7, 8		
Dec. 2	MSBOA Fall Solo and Ensemble Festival	7, 8	SCRANTON Middle School	All Day
Dec. 7	HOLIDAY CONCERT	ALL	BCPA**	7:00 pm
Jan. 2024	Spring fundraiser – TBD	7, 8	TBD	TBD
Jan/Feb.	Livingston County Middle School Honors Band: select students	7, 8	TBD	TBD
March	MMEA INSTRUMENTAL CLINIC	7, 8	TBD	TBD
May 15	GRAND FINALE CONCERT	ALL	BCPA**	7:00 pm
May 17 & 18 TBD	8th Grade Event	8	TBD	Friday & Saturday
May 24	7th grade Event	7	Cedar Point	Friday
June 3	BHS Marching Band Camp Mtg.	8	BHS Aux. Gym	7:00 pm

EVENTS IN BOLD ARE MANDATORY

**** Brighton Center for the Performing Arts**

Only for those 8th Grade Students planning to participate in the BHS Band

For the online parent contact form please click here: [Online Parent Contact Form](#)