

Bayou Community Academy
7th/8th grade BAND HANDBOOK

DEAR PARENTS AND STUDENTS,

WELCOME TO THE BCA BAND PROGRAM!

THIS BOOK CONTAINS THE POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR THE LACACHE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND TO PERFORM AT ITS OPTIMUM LEVEL. BOTH PARENTS AND STUDENTS SHOULD BE WELL ACQUAINTED WITH ALL CONTENTS OF THIS BOOKLET. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

Amy Adams
BAND DIRECTOR

BCA BAND GOAL:

OUR GOAL IS TO PERFORM AT OUR HIGHEST LEVEL, BOTH AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A GROUP IN ORDER TO BRING PRIDE AND RESPECT TO OUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY.

INTRODUCTION

As a student of instrumental music, you will be taking part in a structured and well-organized educational program. It is important to remember that some of the greatest joys and abiding satisfactions come from achievement that comes from success. Below are the guidelines set by the band director and administration regarding activities, participation, grading procedure, and general expectations.

BAND IS A PERFORMANCE-BASED CLASS.

The foremost consideration for all players is to provide them with a band environment that gives them the needed individual and ensemble skills to become a good junior high and eventually high school performer. Daily exercises will be geared toward continuing the development of ear training, listening skills, playing skills (both individual and ensemble), tone production, technical mastery of the instrument and musicianship.

PARTICIPATION

In order for your child to reach his/her potential musically, it is important that he/she participate in the many activities offered in the band curriculum. All activities contribute to the child's total development as a student of music education. Since your child may be called upon for rehearsals and performances in the after school hours, these activities become part of the curriculum for the course, and are subject to consideration in the evaluation process.

HONOR BAND – PARISH/DISTRICT (7th, & 8th)

Students will have the opportunity to audition and be nominated for these prestigious groups. Audition material for district honor bands will be distributed early in the year. Students are encouraged to prepare well and audition! Students who are selected will perform with others their age from around the area.

COMMUNICATION

Email Ms. Adams for any questions during the year: aadams@bcacharter.org
Check Google classroom for updates.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The role of the parent in any task the student will undertake is of extreme importance. It is imperative for the parent to see that the student practices a minimum of 3 hours per week. With the help of the parent, the student will have a much greater chance of success. This does not mean that music should override the other studies, but it should not be underestimated or its importance diminished. Music is an excellent path to sharpen the senses, improve mental capacity, and enhance fine motor control.

****PRACTICE IS THE KEY TO UNLOCKING MOST AREAS OF LEARNING.

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

- Instrument
- Pencils
- Folder with 10 sheet protectors

- Necessary instrument supply, such as replacement reeds, cleaning towels, valve oil or cork grease, etc...

CONCERTS

- **Winter -TBA(most likely December)**
- **Spring-TBA**

“Special Occasion” attire.

Ladies: dresses/nice skirts or pants and blouses

(Dresses/skirts must be BCA approved length. No strapless tops or visible “spaghetti strap” type tops. Shawls or other tops may be used with straps, *but must remain on the entire time students are on campus.*

Gentlemen: shirts and ties/ suits/or nice shirts and slacks

*****NO JEANS OR TENNIS SHOES!**

Remember, our concerts are a very special occasion. Dress comfortably, but appropriately. We want to look as great as we sound!!!

INSTRUMENTS

A student’s instrument plays an important role in his/her musical development.

Instruments may be stored in the middle school hallway shelves provided during the school day. If a student leaves an instrument

overnight, the student is responsible for his or her instrument should something happen.

REPAIR

All repairs should be done by a reliable repairperson. Ideally, repairs should be done when it will not interfere with the student’s music classes (i.e. weekends or holidays). Please try to keep up with the condition of his/her instrument.

INSTRUMENT CARE

Woodwinds

- Keep instrument oiled and free of dust.
- Check pads weekly for worn or torn skin.
- Wooden instruments should be bore oiled twice a year to prevent cracking.
- Mouthpieces should be cleaned once a week.
- Cases should be kept clean. Do not keep music in your case unless there is a specific compartment for it.

Brass

- Instrument should be washed, inside and out, at least once every six weeks.
- Mouthpiece should be cleaned once a week.
- Tuning slides should be cleaned and greased once a week.
- Trombone slides should be cleaned and creamed once a week.
- Valves should be kept well-oiled.
- Cases should be kept clean. Do not keep music in your case unless there is a specific compartment for it.

Percussion

- All players are responsible for keeping all equipment, including school equipment, clean and in good working order.

ENROLLMENT AND DROPPING POLICY

Students who elect to enroll in instrumental music will be held to this commitment for the entirety of the school year.

DAILY EXPECTATIONS

THE STUDENT WILL:

1. **REMAIN IN CONTROL AT ALL TIMES.**
2. **SHOW RESPECT FOR YOURSELF, OTHERS AND EQUIPMENT.**
3. **NOT PLAY ON PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT OR ANYONE ELSE'S INSTRUMENT.**
4. **ALWAYS BE COURTEOUS AND EXHIBIT GOOD MANNERS.**
5. **SHOW POSITIVE ATTITUDES ONLY, PLEASE!**
6. **BE PREPARED TO PERFORM AND PARTICIPATE IN CLASS TO THE BEST OF HIS/HER ABILITY. (THIS MEANS PRACTICE!!!)**
7. **PLAY WITH THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SOUND POSSIBLE AT ALL TIMES!!**
8. **FOLLOW DIRECTIONS THE FIRST TIME GIVEN!**
9. **RESPOND RESPECTFULLY TO THE DIRECTOR'S REQUESTS.**
10. **SIT UP STRAIGHT TO PLAY. (PERCUSSIONISTS STAND UP STRAIGHT TO PLAY.)**
11. **REMAIN IN CORRECT SEAT THROUGHOUT REHEARSAL.**
12. **RAISE HAND AND WAIT SILENTLY AND PATIENTLY FOR PERMISSION TO SPEAK.**

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND STUDENTS LEARN PROPER REHEARSAL DECORUM. ALL MUSICAL REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE IS A HIGHLY DISCIPLINED ACTIVITY, AND BAND MEMBERS MUST LEARN HOW TO CONDUCT AN ORDERLY, EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE REHEARSAL. GREAT PERFORMANCES DO NOT HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT OR MAGIC. GREAT PERFORMANCES HAPPEN BECAUSE WE MAKE THEM HAPPEN BY PREPARING OURSELVES WELL. WE WILL STRIVE TO ACHIEVE THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE.

- **ENTER QUIETLY AND IN A FRAME OF MIND FOR A PRODUCTIVE REHEARSAL.**
- **USE A SOFT, APPROPRIATE SPEAKING VOICE AND AVOID UNNECESSARY NOISE SO AS TO MAINTAIN AN ORDERLY REHEARSAL ATMOSPHERE.**
- **BE IN YOUR CORRECT SEAT WITH ALL NECESSARY EQUIPMENT WITHIN TWO MINUTES FOR CLASS AND AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSAL.**
 - *INSTRUMENT
 - *MUSIC (WITH YOUR NAME AND MEASURES NUMBERED)
 - *PENCIL
 - *REEDS

***VALVE OIL
CHECK THE BOARD FOR THE DAY'S SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMINDERS**

- **IF YOUR INSTRUMENT IS IN THE SHOP, PLEASE HAVE A NOTE FROM A PARENT/GUARDIAN EXPLAINING WHEN THE EXPECTED RETURN DATE WILL BE.**
- **IF YOU AREN'T FEELING WELL AND CAN'T FULLY PARTICIPATE, YOU ARE STILL EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE BY PLAYING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND BY "FINGERING THROUGH" YOUR PART. ONLY STUDENTS WITH WRITTEN EXCUSES WILL BE EXCUSED FROM CLASS PARTICIPATION.**
- **STUDENTS WITHOUT INSTRUMENTS (EITHER FORGOTTEN OR BEING REPAIRED) WILL BE GIVEN A WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT TO KEEP THEM BUSY DURING CLASS AND REHEARSAL. THE STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPLYING THEIR OWN PAPER AND PENCIL.**
- **WARM UP PROPERLY WITH LONG TONES, LIP SLURS, THIRDS, SCALES, THEN REVIEW CONCERT MUSIC. DO NOT overblow or just make noises with your instrument.**
- **EVERY MEMBER SHOULD BE QUIET WHEN THE DIRECTOR STEPS ONTO THE PODIUM. NO FURTHER PLAYING OR TALKING IS PERMITTED. AVOID ANY ACTIVITY THAT DISTRACTS OTHER STUDENTS OR DISRUPTS THE REHEARSAL.**
- **HAVE A PRODUCTIVE REHEARSAL. ALWAYS GIVE 110%.**
- **AFTER REHEARSAL, PUT ALL SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS AND PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT IN ITS PROPER PLACE. RETURN CHAIRS AND STANDS TO THE ORIGINAL POSITION FOR NEXT CLASS.**

GRADES

As previously mentioned, a portion of the student's grade will come from playing tests. In addition to tests, all students will receive participation grades. The student must warm up properly, participate in all playing exercises and have all needed materials daily.

Academic Grade

1. Playing tests
2. Class participation

BCA Band Handbook Sign Off Form

Name: _____

INSTRUMENT: _____

Below is my signature to indicate that I have read the attached requirements and that I understand what is expected of my child. By signing below, my child and I agree to abide by the policies set forth in the BCA Band Handbook.

(student signature)

Date

(parent/guardian signature)

Date

Keep the Handbook and return only this page after signing.