

Band Students and Families:

Welcome to the McBride Middle School Bands! Students have worked hard learning their instruments the last two years at Owen. Now that students have moved to McBride Middle School, there are a few small differences with the band program. Please carefully read the following pages of this packet to best prepare for the school year. We are looking forward to a wonderful year of making music!

In 7th & 8th grade, band meets every day for 70 minutes as a “focus” class. Classes are split into three ensembles: 1st Period 7th Grade Band, 3rd Period 7th Grade Band, and 5th Period 8th Grade Band. Each ensemble will perform at concerts as a class; ensembles will not be combined for performances.

There are two band directors at McBride Middle School: Mr. Miller & Mr. Kasperski. With larger class sizes, both directors team teach each ensemble to provide the best possible instruction for students. **Please contact Mr. Kasperski with any questions or concerns regarding 7th grade band students and Mr. Miller with any questions or concerns regarding 8th grade band students**

Students are able to use instrument storage cubbies (located in the band room) to store instruments during the school day. It is recommended that students drop off instruments in the morning and pick them up at the end of the school day. Students should have an identification tag (such as a luggage tag) or other permanent means of identification on their instrument. It is encouraged that families record the serial number of your instrument. Students are able to leave instruments in cubbies over night if needed but are encouraged to practice at home as much as needed to stay caught up in class.

**Students should plan to bring instruments to school, ready to play, by Wednesday, September 5th.** Do not plan to purchase a method book at this moment in time. For now, students will be provided with classroom music and materials composed by the directors. Any student using a school instrument will be given a check-out sheet to be filled out and returned as soon as possible. Instruments will be distributed upon completion of that sheet.

Concerts are mandatory events and count as part of the overall grade in band class. Families are encouraged to stay for the duration of each concert to support our program. Please check the attached performance calendar and plan accordingly.

**Please fill out the confirmation page at the end of this packet and return no later than Friday, September 7th.**

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns!

Mr. Miller  
Mr. Kasperski

**Communication**

There is a lot of information to communicate to families throughout the year. To be as efficient as possible, please review the different means of communication below. It is recommended to get connected in as many ways as possible.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Band Webpage:** The webpage has been under MAJOR construction this summer with plans to release the update in the next two weeks! This is the main source to find information about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, deadlines, and anything else related to the Belleville Band Program. All information that is handed out in class is also published to our band webpage. Visit [www.BellevilleBands.org](http://www.BellevilleBands.org) to learn more.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** Please be sure that your email address(es) are updated and accurate in MiStar and with the McBride Middle School office. Since Mr. Kasperski teaches at both McBride Middle School and Owen Intermediate School, and since Mr. Miller teaches in multiple classrooms throughout the day, email is the quickest way to get ahold of either director.

Mr. Miller - [tmiller@vanburenschools.net](mailto:tmiller@vanburenschools.net)

Mr. Kasperski - [rkasperski@vanburenschools.net](mailto:rkasperski@vanburenschools.net)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** The phone number to the McBride Band Office is 734.697.9171 ext. 3060. Again, Mr. Kasperski teaches at both McBride Middle School and Owen Intermediate School, and Mr. Miller teaches in multiple classrooms throughout the day. Please allow ample time for a response via phone.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Remind Text Alerts:** Parents and students can receive short text messages to their phone with reminders about upcoming performances, tests, deadlines, fundraisers, and anything else. To sign up, send the following class code as a text message, using “81010” as the phone number. Yes, the “@” sign should be included in your message. Yes, the phone number is only 5 digits.

7th Grade Band Students (1st AND 3rd Period): @McbBand7

8th Grade Band Students (5th Period): @McbBand8

\_\_\_\_\_ **Hard Copies:** Paper copies of newsletters will be sent home with each student when they are available.

# McBride Bands Concert Calendar

<i>When does it happen?</i>	<i>What is it?</i>	<i>Who is involved?</i>	<i>Where is it?</i>	<i>What time?</i>
Tuesday, Sept 18th	BHS Marching Band Review	7th and 8th- Voluntary as a spectator	Belleville HS Stadium	Gates open at 6 PM
Friday, Sept. 28th	8th Grade Band Night with BHS Marching Tigers	8th Grade students Only	Belleville HS Stadium	Report time: 4:45 PM, Game begins at 7 PM
Tuesday, Oct 23rd	8th Grade Concert with BHS Symphony band	8th Grade students only	Belleville HS Aud.	Report at 7 PM: Concert Begins at 7:30 PM
Thursday, Dec. 6	McBride Bands Winter Concert	All Bands	Belleville HS Aud.	Report Time 6:40, Concert begins at 7PM
Thursday, Feb. 7	Van Buren Solo Ensemble Festival	All Students: voluntary	Belleville HS	TBD
Thursday, Friday March 14 or 15	MMEA Band Festival	All Bands	Belleville HS Aud.	Sched. TBD, but will be during the school day.
Thursday, March 23rd	BHS Bands Hill Auditorium concert	7th and 8th Grade – Voluntary as a spectator	Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor	Concert begins at 7 PM.
Thursday, June 6	McBride Bands Spring Concert	All Bands	Belleville HS Aud.	Report Time 6:40, Concert begins at 7PM

## MCBRIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS PROCEDURES AND STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

These expectations and guidelines are here so your band experience can be focused on the enjoyment of making great music. Being a member of the ensemble is the focus of band. The failure to follow these guidelines will result in a chaotic environment, which will greatly detract from our goal of making enjoyable music.

### Concert Attendance Policy

All students must attend scheduled concerts and performances. Mr. Miller or Mr. Kasperski will determine if a student is to be excused from a performance. We follow the guidelines below:

**Missed performances will be excused only under the following circumstances:**

**1. Illness or family emergency on the day of the performance.**

A written note explaining the absence is required, and the absence must be an excused absence from school. Students should make every effort to attend school, even for a half day on performance dates.

Please note that I consider family emergencies to be death of a family member, severe health emergency or other extenuating circumstance that prevents a student from being in a performance.

We must have parental contact in the form of a note or a phone call for an excused absence.

Please try to not schedule family vacations during scheduled school sessions.

**2. Transportation problems will not be excused absences.** With over 200 students in the program, rides to and from concerts should be easy to obtain. Concert calendars are given out at the beginning of school and reminder notifications are sent home with students. **Parents are asked to contact the band teachers in advance if you cannot get a child to a performance.** We can find another student who lives close to provide a ride, or we will provide a ride with your permission.

**3. In cases where a schedule conflict with a school-sponsored event exists with a performance, the student is to inform the teacher of the conflict with two weeks notice.** The student should be prepared to assist the band teachers and the other VBPS coach or sponsor in finding a solution to the conflict. It is our policy to not pin down a student between us and another adult, but we will hold the student accountable for giving proper notice. "I didn't know about it" is not going to be adequate. Since the concert performance is a curricular component of school, we consider it to take precedence over all extra curricular activities including sports.

**4. All other conflicts of schedule require two weeks notice, including specific reasons for the request.** These will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Fulfilling the notification requirement does not automatically mean the absence will be excused. Because time is required to rework a performance in anticipation of an absence of a member, two weeks notice is required. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

In cases of excused absences, students will perform their concert music for an exam with the teacher. In cases of unexcused absences, the concert grade will be a zero "50" with the resulting marking period grade being lowered no more than 10%.

### Concert Dress

The 7th Grade Band will be purchasing matching concert shirts at a cost of \$14 per person. 8th grade students should plan on wearing the concert shirt for this year also. With the change in school colors and logo, we will be sending out separate notice on shirt orders. Performances are semi-formal events for the

ensembles, and appropriate clothing must be worn. In addition to the concert shirt, we also ask students to wear black pants or skirt and dark shoes.

### **Restroom procedures:**

Band Classes are quite large (50 - 88 students for 2018-2019). Students constantly getting up using the restroom becomes a huge disruption, and the student misses practice on what we are currently doing.

Therefore the following procedures will be followed for band classes.

- No student will be denied access to the restroom during class for emergencies or feminine hygiene needs
- Students must plan to use the restroom before class during passing time. This means they need to take care of their body needs instead of waiting until they have “an emergency”.
- It takes three minutes to move from the back hall to the band room, therefore, students arriving 1 minute before the deadline will be allowed to use the restroom before class and enter the room after the deadline without being marked tardy. They still must be in their seat with instrument 3 minutes after the in class deadline. We have no bells so they will need to see a teacher before they go so we know who is out to the restroom.
- Students will need to plan to use either the restroom or go to their locker before band. They will not have time to “hang out” with others then expect to make it to the band room within the three minute time frame. They will need to understand this and face the consequences of their choice.
- All students using the restroom during class time will sign out. Students with more than 2 “emergencies” within a marking period will have a short conversation with one of the teachers on how they can plan better.
- Students who continue to use the restroom during band class too frequently will have a call home for strategies to help.
- Students with medical restroom needs are exempt from this policy as long as it does not become a disruption or take away from a student’s learning.
- Girls who have unforeseen feminine hygiene needs will not be tracked unless patterns develop.

### **Classroom and Equipment Expectations:**

- Students are expected to be in class with their instruments, books, music, instrumental supplies (reeds, oil etc) and a pencil each day. Just as you have a spare tire for your car, woodwinds are required to have at least 2 playable reeds at all times. Brass players are required to have valve oil or slide lubricant (trombone) at all times.
- There is a vending machine in the classroom with all the supplies available for sale.
- Brass players who play a school instrument; French Horn, Baritone or Tuba will be required to purchase their own mouthpiece if they have not already done so.
- Percussionists will be required to own a stick bag and various sticks and mallets. These are their “instruments”.
- Students are expected to take care of their instruments. We will be continuing the process they learned at Owen for Instrument Care. In the case an instrument does need repair, the Marshall Music rep calls on the school two times each week. He can pick up and return instruments for repair. Rental instruments are repaired for free, however if you do not have a rental agreement with them, they can repair instruments with credit card for payment and still pick up and deliver. Students playing a school

instrument will be responsible for its repair if the damage is the result of neglect or blatant carelessness determined by either of the teachers. Students playing school instruments will not be held responsible for normal wear and tear.

- Students will be given a Band Folder. However, students may choose to use a Band folder in their binder or school organizer. This is to keep loose documents that they need in class.
- Students are responsible for the storage of their own instrument. Each student is assigned a storage rack and is responsible for placing the instrument and music in that space each day. 7th grade flutes, clarinets and oboes are to be stored in their individual locker.
- ALL STUDENTS WILL PLACE THEIR NAME PERMANENTLY IN AND ON THEIR CASE!! This is for the safety and protection of your instrument. Instruments without tags will not be allowed be stored in the band room until they are labeled properly.
- The instrument storage room should not be considered secure for overnight storage. Therefore, the school is not responsible for loss of an instrument in the band room overnight.
- It is always prudent to record the serial number, make and model number of your instrument and store this information in a safe place.

## McBRIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

Grading of students in the McBride Middle School band program will be based on the assessment of performance skills (Student Performance Objectives), rehearsal skills and concert attendance, and various musicianship and music theory skills.

#### **Concert Attendance Policy:**

Very simply put, students are expected to be present for performances. By enrolling in the class we are expecting the family to make a commitment to attend the listed concerts in the calendar. Like a sports team where the goal is to play the game against another team, one of our major class goals is to present a "Concert Performance". These cannot be accomplished when members of the team are not present for the Concert. The environment of the "Concert Performance" cannot be duplicated or "made up" at a time different from the scheduled concert. Since performance is an integral part of the curriculum, membership in the McBride Middle School Bands requires attendance and participation in all scheduled concerts and festivals. Failure to do so will result a grade of zero ("0") being entered for that performance. This will result in the marking period grade being lowered no more than 10%. Absences excused in advance by the director or students with absences due to emergency or illness will be allowed to make up the missed performance by performing their concert music for Mr. Miller or Mr. Kasperski. Students must be in attendance at school for at least ½ the school day to be allowed to attend and perform in a concert. (please see the **Expectations** document for what is considered an excused absence)

#### **Performance Assessments (Student Performance Objectives):**

Student Performance Objectives are assessed each marking period. A student performance should exhibit proficiency in 5 characteristics; Technical Fluency, Rhythmic Accuracy, Characteristic Tone, Clean Articulation and Musicianship. Performance assignments will be assessed on these 5 categories. Students will be expected to practice at home to be able to perform the assessment with an 85% or better to be considered "Proficient" on that assessment. Students who do not reach this proficiency will be given feedback for improvement and encouraged to practice more then retake the assessment. Students will be expected to continue to work on every assessment until it is up to a proficient level of performance.

- Students will be expected to retake assessments as many times as they need to in order to reach a proficient score of 85% or better.
- Students must perform at a proficient level by the end of 8th grade, in order to be promoted to the Belleville High School Bands
- Families and students should plan on 45 minutes of individual practice each week at home.
- If practice is impossible at home due to circumstances, parents should contact Mr. Miller to make arrangements for the student to have time to practice in school.
- There will be a posted record of Student Performance Objectives in the band room so students can track which assessments they have or have not reached proficiency. It is the student's responsibility to check this board and know what they have to complete.

#### **Flipgrid:**

Flipgrid is a wonderful new app we are asking students to use on their/parent cellphone. It takes up little memory and storage and only needs an internet (wifi or cell) to connect. We will give students a code for their class. When the app is opened the student simply enters the code. All of the assessments to be performed will then be listed. Tap on an assessment, and the app guides the user through the process of recording themselves and submitting it. When the teachers evaluate the assessment, the student will receive feedback via email about the evaluation. We are asking every band family to grant the student access to flipgrid via the student cellphone or a parent cell phone. If this is not available please contact one of the band teachers.

**MCBRIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS  
STUDENT/PARENT CONTRACT**

- **Please post the concert dates to your family calendars**
- **Be ready for an awesome year!!!!**

I have read the policies of the McBride Middle School bands regarding grades, expectations, and scheduled performances. I understand that I am committed to attend the performance obligations listed on the attached forms, and understand the grade requirements and policies of the band program.

Student Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to Band Class by Friday, September 7**