

# Welcome to the Brown Intermediate Center Band Program!

## **Foreword**

Welcome to the Brown Intermediate Center Band Program. This handbook has been prepared to inform you about Band at Brown. You are now a member of one of the musically diverse bands in South Bend. This is a winning team rich in tradition of which you are now a vital part. As with any activity, you get out of what you put into it. You have the opportunity to enjoy some good times as part of this band and I look forward to sharing them with you. Most questions can be answered by referring to this handbook. Welcome!

## **Philosophy & Objectives**

Band at Brown Intermediate Center is a voluntary privilege offered to impart knowledge and values of music and performance. I want to give each student musical experiences that will challenge and enrich their lives. Band students will develop individual leadership and self-discipline, cooperation, teamwork as well as common everyday morals and values. Participation in group performance fosters and demands many qualities I value. My primary purpose is not to develop professional musicians but to enable students to reach their full potential at this level.

## **Expectations of Students**

**Attendance:** Students are expected to arrive at class with their instrument, music and proper materials before the bell rings.  
Students are expected to attend and participate in all scheduled concerts. (see concerts under grading policy)

**Facilities:** Students are expected to take care of the band room. This includes keeping trash off the floor, and refraining from bringing food or drinks into the room. The teacher's desk, computer, and office are considered off limits to students. Instruments will be either stored in a specific location, the band room, or in the lockers in the hallway to be determined by Mrs. Forsythe.

**Practice Rooms:** Brown has 3 practice rooms for your usage. These rooms are considered off limits unless permission is granted from Mrs. Forsythe. Please remove all trash and personal items and turn off the lights when you exit.

**Music:** Each student will be given a music folder, sheet music, and other printed information. It is the responsibility of each student to take care of all materials and bring them to class. Repeated irresponsibility may result in students having to hand copy the materials that have been lost or damaged. Music is to be marked in pencil only. All students must have their name written on the top of each piece of music.

## **Parent Involvement & Communication**

- It is very important to me that parents stay involved with their child's education. Your involvement and support can make an incredible difference in your child's development as a musician. Please remember to applaud your child for their efforts and encourage them to develop a practice routine at home.
- I will send group emails home to keep families informed about what we are doing in class. **Powerschool** is the best way to keep track of your child and his/her progress. Please contact [mlaplace@sbcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:mlaplace@sbcsc.k12.in.us) or [ksteinke@sbcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:ksteinke@sbcsc.k12.in.us) for a username and password if you do have one already. This way you can check your child's attendance and grades the moment they are entered.
- At times, I understand that difficult situations can arise. If at any time, circumstances make it impossible to get a student to a rehearsal or performance, contacting me as soon as possible will make it easier to develop a solution.

## **Instrument Testing**

New band students will have the opportunity to try out band instruments in class. They will come home with a paper listing their top three choices. I will need to know whether you are renting an instrument from the school or buying one for the student at that time. Instruments will be assigned based on student preference, parental response, and the needs of the group.

## **Instrument Rental and Care**

Rental fees are charged to students using school-owned instruments for both school and home use. Band instruments rent for \$40.00 per year. Students that already have an instrument will not need to rent from the school. Instrument rental contracts should be filled out and returned by no later than (see date on form). ALL students should have their instruments ready to play in class by **September 15th**. (we will be learning classroom etiquette, rhythms, notes, and musical notation & symbols until then) Partial rental fees will be accepted for a student to use an instrument in school, but the student may not take the instrument home until a payment plan has been arranged, contract signed & returned and paid off. Students are expected to hold and play their instruments as demonstrated by the band director. Students are also expected to store their instruments properly in cases when not in use. Instruments damaged due to student misuse/neglect are the responsibility of students and parents, as are instruments that are lost while under contract. If a school-owned instrument is in need of repair for reasons other than misuse or neglect, let Mrs. Forsythe know immediately, and it will be repaired as soon as possible. Repairs on student-owned instruments need to be handled by the student/parents as soon as possible. When you have your instrument repaired, always ask that the store doing the repairs to provide you with a "loaner" instrument while yours is being fixed.

## Band Supply List

You are expected to provide your own PENCIL. If you do not have these things already, you will need to get them immediately. We will be doing worksheets, rhythm studies, practicing, and testing from the band method books. Students are responsible for all supplies listed (for their instrument).

Band Students need: \_\_\_\_\_ Tradition of Excellence, Book 1 (\$10.95. Perc book \$13.95)

\_\_\_\_\_ Pencil in your case or folder

Woodwinds: Flute: Flute rod, soft cotton cloth.  
Clarinet: Handkerchief swab, 4 reeds, cork grease, mouthpiece, cap, ligature.  
Saxophones: 4 reeds, mouthpiece, cap, ligature.

Brass: Trumpet/Cornet: Mouthpiece & valve oil  
Trombone: Mouthpiece & slide grease or oil.  
Baritone & Tuba: Mouthpiece & valve oil.

Percussion: Drum pad for home use, bells or piano keyboard for home practice, snare drumsticks (Vic Firth 5A or SD-1 General)

## Performance Supplies

All band students will need to wear the school uniform white top and black slacks/skirt for the concerts here at Brown.

## Classroom Rehearsal Procedures

The students will:

- 1) Arrive to class on time, listen, and be respectful of self, others and their property.
- 2) Be prepared for class with working instrument, music, pencil, and band folder.
- 3) Never handle an instrument that does not belong to you or is assigned to you. Take proper care of your instrument.
- 4) Bring a note or send an email to Mrs. F from your parent if you cannot play because of illness or doctors note stating that you cannot participate. An alternate assignment will be given to those that are not able to play during class time.
- 5) Raise hand to be called on to ask a question and not talk when others are talking.
- 6) Make a difference by being ready to learn and share your passion to create music.

# Grading Policy

Students are graded on their individual performance, not on how well (or badly) they play (initially), because everyone has a different ability level to begin with and all students' progress at different rates. Band grades are based on the following percentages:

	<u>9 weeks with no concert</u>	<u>9 weeks with a concert</u>
+ Playing tests:	40%	30%
+ Quizzes:	30%	20%
+ Daily Contribution:	20%	20%
+ Concert:		20%
+ Pr Rec/Hmwk/Classwk:	10%	10%

Total of 100% each quarter.

\*\* Please check powerschool frequently for grade updates and information.

Grading scale will be used in concordance with SBCSC Powerschool program and music curriculum will focus on Indiana Department of Education Instrumental Music Standards:

Standard 1: PERFORMING MUSIC: Singing alone and with others.

Standard 2: PERFORMING MUSIC: Playing an instrument alone and with others.

Standard 3: CREATING MUSIC: Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.

Standard 4: CREATING MUSIC: Composing and arranging music within specific guidelines.

Standard 5: RESPONDING TO MUSIC: Reading, notating, and interpreting music

Standard 6: RESPONDING TO MUSIC: Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.

Standard 7: RESPONDING TO MUSIC: Evaluating music and music performance.

Standard 8: RESPONDING TO MUSIC: Understanding the relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts

Standard 9: RESPONDING TO MUSIC: Understanding music in relation to history and culture

**Playing Tests** are planned individual sections in the music we work on in class. Playing tests will be 8 or 35 points per test. *Students will get one opportunity to re-take their band test for a higher grade.*

**Daily Contribution** reflects whether students are meeting all class expectations. Each day will be worth five points if they come to class prepared with all proper materials (playable reeds). (instrument, folder, book, music and pencil.) Participation will be required whether or not a student has all of his or her materials and may be assigned an alternative assignment. Students who cannot participate in class activities need to have a *parent note to excuse them* (for the time they cannot participate) and will be given alternate activities as is appropriate. Willingness to follow class rules, coming to class prepared with a positive attitude, etc.

**Quizzes** are rhythm panels, listening examples, reports, or worksheets. Quizzes may be given to assess mastery and improve their understanding of musical terms, rhythm & meter, note naming, music symbols and vocabulary.

**Practice Records/Homework/Classwork** Practicing at home is a valuable way of helping the student master what has been taught in class. It is also a good way of building good study habits and self-discipline. I urge a minimum of 30 minutes per day at least 5 days a week. This is their homework! "Practice Records" are worth approximately 10% of the band grade each quarter. These practice records are due once a week with parent signature. Classwork/Homework is graded handouts that are done in or outside of class time.

**Concerts/Performances** are the final goal and musical assessment of students in Band and a required part of the class. Demonstrating that they know how to perform in a group, watch the conductor, listen to pitch with attention to tone production and show proper concert etiquette are a few skills learned in class and best shown at a concert. If a student does not attend the dress rehearsal the morning of the concert, you will not be permitted to perform in the afternoon concert. If you know ahead of time that you will not be in school the day of the concert, please notify Mrs. Forsythe immediately. *Two weeks notice must be given for an absence to be excused with make-up.*

# Classroom Expectations & Discipline

## Responsibility

- Bring your pencil, instrument, folder, music and proper equipment to class every day (be prepared)
- Turn in assignments and practice records on time
- Ask questions if you need clarification
- Play *your own* instrument & take ownership of you & your belongings
- No gum, candy or food in the classroom.

## Respect

- Follow instructions the first time given
- Do not play until you are asked to & do not play or talk when the teacher is giving instruction
- Respect the differences and opinions of others at all times
- Raise your hand to speak and wait to be called on
- Keep your instrument, music, seat and music stand in the appropriate location
- Personal issues/concerns need to be addressed before or after class

## Citizenship

- Do not waste time; yours, mine or ours
- Lead by example & offer to help others when they need it
- Respect the property of the school, yourself & others
- Please, thank you, pardon me, excuse me & I'm sorry should be used instead of my bad, snap or move! Open the door for others. Use manners.
- Practice makes permanent.

## Consequences:

Level 1 Consequences: Warning, re-taught procedure/expectation, altered environment & loss of daily contribution points, removal from activity, in class writing assignment.

- Examples: Improper use of technology, disrespectful behavior, dress code violation, unexcused attendance, inappropriate language/gestures/disruptive/disorderly conduct, electronic devices, off task, teaching interruption, refusal to participate, mistreatment of school property, academic dishonesty. Not following directives, calling out, excessive talking, tone/attitude, chewing gum/eating/drinking in class, horseplay, no instrument/book or equipment.

Level 2 & 3 Consequences: Loss of daily contribution points, **immediate removal of classroom to Vice Principal w/discipline form. Vice Principal administers consequence.**

- Examples: Repeated level one behaviors, blatant insubordination, prolonged interruptions, etc. 4<sup>th</sup>
- Any other violation of the SBCSC Intermediate Student Code of Conduct.  
[http://www.sbcsc.k12.in.us/pdf-files/IC\\_Code\\_of\\_Conduct.pdf](http://www.sbcsc.k12.in.us/pdf-files/IC_Code_of_Conduct.pdf)

## Concert Schedule:

Brown Winter Concert: Dec. ? all band, orchestra, choir students  
(dress rehearsal in the morning)

SBCSC All-City Band Festival (grades 6-8): March 15 6:30 PM at WHS  
(dress rehearsals 3/14 & 3/15)

Brown Spring Concert: May ? at 2:00 PM all band, orchestra, choir students  
(dress rehearsal in the morning)

Thank you for letting me educate your child in band and music education. Feel free to contact me when you have questions.

Dawn Forsythe ([dforsythe@sbcsk12.in.us](mailto:dforsythe@sbcsk12.in.us))

Brown Intermediate Center (band room phone 283-8837)

736 West Beale Street

South Bend, Indiana 46616

# BROWN INTERMEDIATE CENTER

## BAND CONTRACT 2016-2017

By signing this contract I promise to:

- Verify that the undersigned student and parent have read the Brown Intermediate Center Band Handbook 2016-2017 and understand its contents as well as the responsibilities outlined therein.
- Conduct myself as a responsible and respectful member of the band
- Participate in all band concerts and dress rehearsals for a portion of your grade
- Set aside adequate time for home practice (daily band homework) and turn in practice records.
- Bring all equipment needed to every class (instrument, folder, book, music, pencil) etc.
- Follow all school and band rules and regulations
- Verify that you have arranged to be available on the dates and times listed for band concerts.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

Home  
address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's/  
guardian's name \_\_\_\_\_ daytime (cell/work) phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's email address \_\_\_\_\_

Father's/  
guardian's name \_\_\_\_\_ daytime (cell/work) phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Father's email address \_\_\_\_\_

I will occasionally take pictures of my students in class and display them in the room or take them with me to the elementary schools when we recruit band students. If you do not want your child photographed please check below.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not want my child photographed

Extreme violation of this contract may constitute removal of the student from the band program entirely.