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I. CLASSES

SIXTH GRADE BAND - During the year we will continue to learn more advanced musical skills, theory, and music history. The class is opened to all sixth grade students who have completed beginning band. Students with no prior band experience may be admitted to the class by audition with the director.

SEVENTH EIGHTH GRADE BANDS – During the year we will continue to review and learn more advanced musical skills, theory, and music history as well as develop those skills needed for High School band. The band will be divided by grade level during the school day.

FESTIVAL BAND(S) - The Festival Band(s) at BJHS is our premier-performing group(s). They will consist of the most outstanding band students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. These band(s) will perform and compete in various festivals and competitions. The number and membership of each group will be determined by student ability and desire to perform. These group(s) will function as a separate group from the band classes at BJHS therefore some after school rehearsal should be expected. The criteria for selection to a festival group is as follows:

In order to **earn** and **maintain** a position in a Festival Band the student must observe the following:

- 1) * Maintain an average test score that exceeds 85%.
- 2) * Participate in daily classroom activities.
- 3) * Practice at home on a regular basis to be prepared for class.
- 4) * Attend all scheduled rehearsals.
- 5) * Faithfully participate in public performances. 100% participation required
- 6) Exhibit a positive attitude toward music and the group.
- 7) Maintain a positive discipline record, including **no referrals** from band.

If a student the Festival Band fails to maintain any of the above requirements noted by an asterisk (*), the student **may** be placed on a probation period before any other action is taken. The probation period will be no longer than a nine-weeks period and will require the student to make **significant improvement** in the area noted in order to maintain their position in the Festival Band(s). The director reserves the right to remove any student, at any time, from the Festival Band(s) for a single or repeated violation of any of these requirements. Because of the nature of this group, the student will be held to a higher standard of accountability for discipline, musicianship, and participation both in class and in the area of performance.

II. STUDENTS

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The role of the parent in any task that a student will undertake is of the utmost importance. The parent can greatly influence success or failure. It is imperative that the parent sees to it that the **student practices at least 20 minutes every day**. With the help of a parent, the student will have a much greater chance of success in his or her musical studies. This is not to imply that music should over ride the other studies, but it must not be underestimated or its importance diminished. Music is a pathway to sharpen the senses, improve mental capacity, gain self-confidence and develop social skills.

PRACTICE IS THE KEY, WHICH WILL OPEN THE DOOR TO SUCCESS.

EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It should be understood from the nature of the class that a high standard of behavior must be kept at all times. Band students not only represent themselves, but they are also a reflection on our school when they perform at various events. We must strive for and maintain good discipline at these events as well as within the classroom. Students must take responsibility for themselves as well as maintain their instruments and the school property they will be using, such as chairs, stands, and music. We want our facility to continue to be a place that we can be proud of for years to come.

DRUM MAJOR

Although there are limited outdoor and marching events, a drum major may, when necessary be selected through an audition process. The drum major's duties will be to conduct the band in the stands at games and in the scheduled parade. At the director's option two students may be selected, both serving as co-drum majors. The requirements for drum major are: 1.) conducting skills 2.) leadership qualities 3.) positive attitude 4.) positive discipline record 5.) the standing of an eighth grader.

III. ACTIVITIES

PARISH HONOR BAND

Parish Honor Band is exactly what the title implies; Students from our school compete with other students from across the St Mary Parish for positions in this parish organization. The Honor Band is divided into two levels: Junior high (6-8) and Senior high (9-12). Auditions are usually held during December each year at varying sites in our parish. Honor Band activities are usually held in January culminating in a concert at the end of the week. Those students who are selected to participate in the band will receive an honor patch in recognition of their accomplishment. Festival Band members are expected to audition for Parish Honor Band

DISTRICT HONOR BAND

This Honor Band is similar to Parish Honor Band but on a much larger scale. Our students compete with other students from the parishes of St. Mary, Assumption, Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Charles, St. John, and St. James. These parishes form our District (District VII). Auditions for this band are usually held in December. Honor Band events including the concert are usually held the following January. Festival Band members are strongly encouraged to audition for Parish Honor Band. There are three levels of performing groups; All Youth (6-7), Junior High (8-9), and Senior High (10-12).

ST. MARY PARISH ALL-STAR BAND

This All-Star Band is sponsored by the St. Mary Parish Music Educator's Association. Selection to this group is through director recommendation only. Outstanding students will be selected by the director to represent our school at this event, usually a Christmas performance in early December

SOLO/ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

All members of Berwick Junior High Band have the opportunity to participate in the solo/ensemble festival. Individual after school rehearsals are usually required to prepare the students performance abilities for this festival. Students will prepare a solo or ensemble and are graded by a professional judge A rating of 1-5 will be awarded to the event. (1= superior, 2 = excellent, 3 = average, 4 = below average, 5 = improvement necessary). Those scoring a superior will receive a medal for their outstanding efforts. All students in grade 6-8 are strongly encouraged to attend the festival. It is a valuable learning experience and is highly recommended.

PRE-FESTIVAL

Pre-Festival is one of the most important events to occur during our school year. This event gives us the opportunity for our festival group(s) to receive comments from a panel of professional judges on the music that we are preparing for competition. This event also coincides with Music in Our Schools Month, which is sponsored by the Music Educators' National Conference (MENC).

BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS EVENT, ALL FESTIVAL BAND STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTUAL FESTIVAL COMPETITION.

BAYOULAND FESTIVAL (Festival Band Members Only)

During those years which the band has a proper instrumentation, PRIDE in its abilities, and a working knowledge of the fundamentals of music etc. We will attend this festival. Bayouland Festival is usually held at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux in early February. The participating bands prepare three selections of various styles (one is from a specific list) and are evaluated by three professional band judges. The band also participates in the sight-reading event. This event determines the students' abilities to use their learned musical skills. The entire band is given a new band work which they have never seen before and after eight minutes of instruction from the director, performs this work. The band is then adjudicated by three professional judges.

The band will be awarded a rating of 1-5 in both of these events. 1= superior, 2= excellent, 3= average, 4= below average, 5= improvement necessary. If a band scores a superior in the stage performance section and at least an excellent in the sight-reading section, they will be eligible to attend the District VII Band Festival.

DISTRICT VII BAND FESTIVAL (Festival Band Members Only)

District Festival is usually held in late March. Similar in format to the Bayouland Festival participating bands prepare three selections of various styles (usually the same three) and are evaluated by three professional band judges. The band also participates in the sight-reading event. This event determines the students' abilities to use their learned musical skills. The entire band is given a new band work which they have never seen before and after eight minutes of instruction from the director, performs this work. The band is then adjudicated by three professional judges. The band will be awarded a rating of 1-5 in both of these events. 1= superior, 2= excellent, 3= average, 4= below average, 5= improvement necessary.

STANDARD PERFORMANCES

The BJHS BAND will normally perform in public at least three times during the school year. These standard performances are: 1) Home Junior High Games, 2) BJHS Christmas concert, 3) BJHS Spring concert. Various performances may be added to or deleted from this list, depending upon the needs and abilities of the band during the school year. Even though the band program will participate in several public performances during the year, it must be understood that the main goal of any middle school or junior high music program is to train the student to become a musician, not to serve as a tool for entertainment. A high school level program better serves that role. However limited performance opportunities are necessary to produce a "well rounded" musician.

AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS

After school rehearsals are occasionally required to prepare the music that we are to perform. There are two types of after school rehearsals:

- 1) Individual rehearsals - which are used to sharpen a student's skill for an audition or a solo performance. The student will be required to pre-register for a specific time slot. The student will be expected to arrive on time with all the necessary materials and equipment. If a student is late they will have only the remaining portion of the allotted time for rehearsal. The time missed must be forfeited in order to remain on schedule. If a student is not able to attend a scheduled rehearsal, common courtesy deems it appropriate to notify the director before the scheduled time.
- 2) Group rehearsals - are to prepare the entire band or group (i.e. ensembles) for an upcoming performance, usually a festival. Students are required to attend all group rehearsals. **Failure to attend a rehearsal with out an approved excuse may result in the student forfeiting their position in that performing group.** Tardiness to an after school rehearsal will accumulate and two tardies will count as a missed rehearsal. Parents will be notified by letter as to the dates and times for this type of rehearsal so their child's schedule can be cleared.

III. POLICIES - PROCEDURES - RULES

INSTRUMENTS

A student's instrument plays a very important role in his musical development. An inferior instrument will usually hamper the student's playing ability, which will cause frustration and discontent in his/her attitude toward music performance. It is therefore recommended that students play on a "name brand" instrument, made by a reputable instrument company. For a list of recommended instruments you can call the band room at 384-6739 and I will be glad to provide you with this information.

PERSONALLY OWNED INSTRUMENTS

The student must purchase instruments such as flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and bell kits. None of these instruments will be provided by the school system.

STUDENTS MUST TAKE HOME ALL PERSONALLY OWNED INSTRUMENTS EVERY NIGHT. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.

Students who habitually disobey this rule (two times per nine-weeks) will be referred to the office for disciplinary action. Neither the band department nor the school will be responsible for any possible theft or damage to an instrument left at school by a student.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

The larger more expensive instruments (tuba, french horn, euphonium, bassoon etc.) that are needed for proper instrumentation are provided by the school in a limited quantity. The student selected to play one of these instruments will be expected to: 1.) Treat the instrument with care and respect. **Any damage caused to the instrument by the student or his carelessness will be repaired at the student's expense** 2.) Take the instrument home in order to practice at least two times per week.

TRANSPORTATION OF INSTRUMENTS ON SCHOOL BUSES

Most instruments can be carried home and to school on the school bus. However, there are some Parish guidelines that all band students must follow in order not to create a problem on the bus: 1) Students may hold the instrument on their lap as long as the case is not longer than their body. 2) Students may stand the instrument, on end, on the floor as long as the case is not wider than the space between the seats and their body. 3) Students may put the instrument on the floor under the bus seat. 4) Instrument cases must not block the aisles at any time as this could cause a problem if an emergency situation should occur and an evacuation becomes necessary.

REPAIR TO PERSONALLY OWNED INSTRUMENTS

All repairs should be done by a reliable repairperson. If possible, the repair should be done at a time, which will not interfere with the student's daily classes. Unless it is an emergency, weekends and holidays will make the best opportunities for repair work. If a student must bring an instrument to the repair shop during a school week, the repair claim receipt or a signed note from the repairman on company stationary must be presented to the director on the first day the student is without an instrument. *A phone call from the parent will be accepted in lieu of the above requirement of notification.* Failure to properly follow this procedure will result in the loss of credit for the days the student is without an instrument. A two-week period will be afforded to the student for instrument repair before another parental notification will be required.

PROCEDURE FOR STORING INSTRUMENTS BEFORE SCHOOL

The band instrument room will be opened before the first bell every morning for students to store their instruments. Students will deposit their instruments in the storage room. Instruments must not be placed on the floor in the storage area or in the band room. Any student who abuses the privilege of using the storage areas will forfeit this privilege for an indefinite period of time.

GRADING PROCESS

Grading plays an important role in every class, band is no exception. Grades are used to communicate to the student and the parents the progress or lack of progress which is being made toward the goal of musical skills. Grades are achieved through four means: 1) Tests; 2) Daily participation grades; 3) Home practice records and 4) Performance participation grades when applicable.

1) TESTS - There are two types of tests given in the band classes here at BJHS. These are; a) Playing tests, where the student should be able to demonstrate audible improvement on an instrument. b) Written tests, which measure the student's ability to comprehend the fundamental principles and terms that are utilized in music and the ability to express these principles.

Most classes will test in one form or the other at least once every week. In the event that a student misses a test, it will be the **responsibility of the student to make arrangements** to make up the test. In certain situations the student may use the next test grade twice in order to fulfill the make-up requirement, if he so chooses. **FAILURE TO MAKE-UP A TEST WITHOUT A VALID EXCUSE WILL RESULT IN THE STUDENT RECEIVING A SCORE OF 0% FOR THE TEST GRADE.** A maximum of three days from the time the student returns to school will be allowed for the student to make arrangements to complete the test that was missed.

2) DAILY PARTICIPATION GRADES - Each student earns a daily grade in order to fulfill the grading procedure. A student can earn points toward this grade by having **ALL** necessary equipment (instrument, music, pencil, etc.) and by **actively utilizing class time in a positive manner.** The daily grade is usually equal to 450 points per nine-week period (10 points per day x 45 days per nine-weeks = 450 points).

3) HOME PRACTICE RECORDS - Each student will earn 180 points per nine weeks (20 points per week x 9 weeks = 180 points) for completing a practice record. Students and parents will complete the practice record form for each week by recording the amount of time spent practicing each day and the parent initialing for each week. **Practice records will be checked each week.** (Extra practice time will be used to enhance the student's grade for that week, however 20 minutes per day is expected)

4) PERFORMANCE PARTICIPATION GRADES - Performances are the tools to teach the concepts of teamwork and responsibility. All students are required to attend every public performance for their particular class. If a student fails to attend a required performance without a valid written excuse, the student's grade will be lowered by one full letter grade from the point at which the student has progressed for the current nine-weeks period. (Example the student's grade of "B" will be lowered to a "C" for the nine-weeks). The director also has the option to remove the student from the performing group. Any questions concerning this area may be directed to the Band Director or the school Principal.

TARDY POLICY

Because students must gather music and assemble instruments, an extra amount of time will be added to the regular tardy bell. **ONE** minute more than is allowed by the school will be given so students will have an opportunity to prepare their things for class. At the conclusion of this extra time all students must be in their seat with all the proper equipment so that class can begin. A student even if they are in the room, who is not seated in their correct seat when the time period expires, will be marked tardy for that day.

LOST BOOKS/MUSIC

Method books are to be treated as any other book the student may receive during the school year. A student who misplaces their book will be given a reasonable amount of time (3 days) to find the book or purchase a new one. Failure to have a book after the three days will result in the loss of daily class grade points for that student.

CHANGING INSTRUMENTS

Students in sixth - eighth grade may only change instruments under the following circumstances: 1) The student is having difficulty on their present instrument. 2) The director asks the student and the student and parent are agreeable. 3) The ultimate decision must be made in agreement with the director, the parent, and the student.

DROPPING POLICY

If for any reason a student desires to voluntarily withdraw from our program, the following procedure must be followed: 1) A parent/director and/or school administrator conference must be scheduled to discuss the nature of the drop and the ramifications of withdrawal in regard to missed opportunities and future scheduling. 2) All equipment (music, instruments etc.) must be returned and properly checked in. 3) All debts to the band program must be resolved. 4) Students may not withdraw *voluntarily* from the program while grades are pending for a nine-weeks period. Any student who wishes to withdraw must do so at the end of the present nine-weeks in order to complete all grading.

Any student may be removed from the band at anytime for repeated discipline problems or repeated failure to bring an instrument for class. **Removing a student from the band for either of the above infractions will be at the discretion of the director and a school administrator.**