

Bailey Bands – Ms. Petersen
October 1, 2018
Band Curriculum Night



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My last name is spelled "SEN".

<http://baileymiddleschoolbands.org>

Remind 101 – A safe way for teachers to text parents and students for free. No one sees your number or mine.

Enter this number: 81010

6th Band on A Day, then text this message: @6thbanda

6th Band on B Day, then text this message: @6thbandb

7th Band on A Day, then text this message: @7thbanda

7th Band on B Day, then text this message: @7thbandb

8th Band, then text this message: @328a4

Performing Band, then text this message: @perform

Jazz Band, then text this message: @6756

6th Advanced Band: @6advband

For those of you are returning and new, we are moving from CharmsOffice to CutTime this year. This is one of our main means of communication.

PLEASE SIGN UP.

- Go to <https://cuttime.net/>
- Click on Student/Parent Sign Up
- Complete the profile and register.
- Subscribing School/Group = Bailey Middle School Bands (Cornelius NC) ID: 3780

WHAT TO PRACTICE – You can check the weekly practice assignment at one location.

<http://baileymiddleschoolbands.weebly.com> – this is also where you go for the online practice log which is a Google Form. You can only access the current week from Monday to Sunday.

Practice Logs – either paper log (copies in classroom and online) or online through a Google Form

Grading Policy

65% = Formal (Tests, quizzes, concerts, and requirements.)

35% = Informal (Daily participation, homework, and practice logs.)

BAND FORMS

Did your child turn in all of his or her band forms? Given out the first 2 days of school.

Required – 2018-2019 Band Handbook Agreement Form – The 2018-2019 Bailey Band Handbook is available on the web site.

Required – 2018-2019 Musical Instrument Disclaimer Form

Required – 2018-2019 Concert Uniform Policy

Required for those entering practice logs online – 2018-2019 Online Practice Log Honor Code Form

Does your child have all of his/her materials for band class?

6th – Sound Innovations Method Book 1*, and Fundamentals Music Theory Book 1

7th – Band Expressions Method Book 1*, and Fundamentals Music Theory Book 1

8th – Band Expressions Method Book 2*, and Fundamentals Music Theory Book 1

Instruments

Please let me help you find an affordable instrument that is of good quality. A few of the instruments I am seeing probably won't be touched by a repairman if repairs are or become needed because repair folks have been blamed when things break or don't hold up under standard repair procedures. A few of the instruments are in really bad condition and are not setting up your kids for success.

If your child is serious about band and you are in a position to financially do so, please consider upgrading the mouthpiece and/or instrument after your child has played for a year.

Instrument Changes

I spend 6 months out of the year recruiting and setting up the band classes for the rising sixth grade. I go through such a process to make sure students are matched to instruments on which they will be successful. Per CMS policy, it is the director's decision to make changes in instrumentation. A student and parent cannot decide on a whim to change a child's instrument. Changing instruments is like trying to take Geometry without having regular Math first. It means the child will most likely not be successful on the other instrument and it creates a mess for instrumentation. If everyone did so, there would not be a complete band or a very good program. Everyone on the baseball team cannot play the same position. The team cannot function without all positions covered. To complete instrumentation in each band, I will start to ask students to make the following changes when needed: flute (oboe or bassoon), clarinet (saxophone or bass clarinet), trumpet (F horn, baritone, or tuba), trombone (rare instances – tuba), and saxophone (tenor or bari sax).

Concert Shirts & Tee-Shirts

Concert Shirts (\$23 – required) – still have students who need to order so I can submit the entire order to the company.

Tee-Shirts (\$15 – required for Performing Band; Jazz Band - optional)

ON YOUR OWN, MUST GET SOLID BLACK DRESS PANTS, SOLID BLACK SOCKS (CALF OR HIGHER), AND SOLID BLACK DRESS SHOES.

Concerts (A permission slip will always go out about a month before the concert.):

October 27th (Saturday) – Performing Band with Cornelius Youth Orchestra

11:00 a.m. – Discovery Kids Huntersville (Bring a lawn chair.)

November 9th (Friday) – 8th Grade Band – 9:30 a.m. at Bailey Middle School

Veteran’s Day Celebration

December 6th (Tuesday) – 6th Band at 6:30 p.m. and 7th/8th Bands at 7:30 p.m.

Hough Auditorium

February 26th (Thursday) – 7:00 p.m. Performing Band Pre-MPA Concert with Hough HS Bands

April 30th (Tuesday) – 6th Band at 6:30 p.m. and 7th/8th Bands at 7:30 p.m.

Hough Auditorium

Uniform Policy - (Yes, Fashion Police will be present.)

In the warm-up and tuning time prior to a concert, my job is to make sure that the students are warmed up and tuned properly so that they can give the best performance possible. At a past concert, I spent half of that time taking care of 18 students who did not show up dressed properly. I cannot do that any longer. It is not fair to the students who are on time and dressed correctly. It is not fair that the ready students did not get the full and proper warm-up and tuning period. It is not fair to put the director in that position.

Performing a concert is a formal affair. Students would not show dressed out of uniform for a sports event. Any director worth his/her salt would expect no less from band students. At each future concert, students will check in with Band Boosters for attendance and uniform inspection. Students who are not dressed as outlined (in the uniform policy, in the band handbook, on the concert permission form, and on the band site) will NOT be allowed to perform that evening. They will have to complete a make-up project to replace the 600-point test grade for the concert. Changing clothes past the warm-up time is not acceptable and creates stress for the director and performers. Showing up out of uniform, no matter how small the infraction, means the student will not be eligible to attend any festivals/trips during the rest of the year. (If there is any financial need, the Band Boosters and I will confidentially help fund the uniform for any student. YOU HAVE TO TELL US IN A TIMELY MANNER IF YOU NEED HELP so we can help.)

6th Grade Band Members

If you want to play more challenging music and go to the Carowinds Music in the Parks Festival, information went out in September to join 6th Grade Advanced Band. We will meet during Bronco Block, which is a club time, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:15 to 9:40 a.m.

7th and 8th Grade Band Members

If you want to join Jazz Band and/or Performing Band this year, you need to fulfill the requirements on the membership application forms.

http://baileymiddleschoolbands.org/images/BMS_Jazz_Band_Membership_Form_2018-2019.pdf

http://baileymiddleschoolbands.org/images/BMS_Performing_Band_Membership_Form_2018-2019.pdf •

Performing is going to New Orleans this year. Payments are made monthly. The first payment was due September 18th and was \$150.

<http://baileymiddleschoolbands.org/baileybands/trips.html>

WHY PRACTICE???

Reinforce the skills you learn in class.

It will make the band better.

You will develop endurance to play harder music and to play for longer periods of time.

Being in a musical ensemble shows dedication, which looks good to colleges and employers.

By becoming a musician you are opening the door to your own understanding and greater enjoyment of something that touches all our lives every day.

Although the idea is still the subject of some debate, recent research in several different countries has suggested that there are strong links between musical experience and reading age, IQ, or the physical development of certain parts of the brain. To put it bluntly, many experts consider that "doing music" makes you more intelligent!

Music will stay with you all your life.

WHAT TO PRACTICE – You can check the weekly practice assignment at this link.

<http://baileymiddleschoolbands.weebly.com>

HOW TO PRACTICE

Here is a summary of what you should be doing, as well as some other hints that will allow you to use your time more efficiently:

- Don't just "play through" your music. When you make a mistake, go back a few notes, and play through the trouble-spot at half the tempo. Do this several times, deliberately and slowly placing the fingers until the trouble is worked out. Then slowly increase tempo.
- Do some silent practice. Do the fingerings while singing or tizzling through the music, especially if you play a brass instrument where constant playing can be tiring.
- Use a metronome. A metronome will not result in an unmusical performance. The metronome will keep your tempo steady, and will greatly discipline your use of practice time.
- Play your instrument every day. You will begin to lose the fine muscle-control you've been developing by skipping days. Once in a while, you need a break, but try to practice six out of every seven days.
- There is another aspect of music performance that holds a musician back, and that is the inability to hear oneself objectively. If your practicing technique seems fine, but you just don't seem to be improving, it's usually because you are not really aware of how you really sound. The best way to hear yourself the way you truly sound is to record yourself. Get a digital or tape recorder, set up a good microphone, and play. (Record yourself.) The first time you hear yourself playing on tape is usually a negative experience, but don't let it discourage you! Try to listen critically but constructively. Instead of getting down on yourself, think of the ways you want to improve, and then go back to practicing. Diligence is the key. Practice every day, and record and listen to yourself at least once a week. You'll reap the benefits almost right away.
- Pick up or order some music for yourself such as movie themes. Most of these books come with play-along CDs.

Practice is hard work and sometimes we do not feel like doing it. Try to practice a little bit every day at the same time in the same place so you have a routine. Set goals for yourself so you can hear improvement. Play for the joy and fun of it at least once a day!