



BLACKMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL FLAMES BAND

6th Grade Band - Handbook & Program Policies

ATTENDANCE

The 6th grade band at BMS is band at the introductory level. The band meets as a class daily. After school events are very limited, but important. There are two main required events for the band during the school year: the December and April concerts. Attending all band classes and both required performances is a must for membership in the band. Performances are counted as test grades. Any missed classes or performances may require makeup work. Excessive tardiness to class or performances can not be tolerated. Not having a ride or having practices of any kind (e.g., league ball, dance, piano, etc.) will not be considered an excused absence from a performance. Please plan ahead. Performances should take precedence over practices. It is our sincere belief that dedication and sacrifice are needed to have success in any good organization. A performance is an experience that can not be replicated any other way. If there is a conflict with any event, please notify us immediately and we will work with you as best we can.

BEHAVIOR

Band students must exhibit consistently good behavior to remain in the program. Students with multiple discipline log entries and/or ISS infractions risk being placed on membership probation or being removed from the band program at the directors' discretion. Membership probation will state the conditions that must be met in order for the student to remain in the band. Membership probations must be signed by a parent or legal guardian and may be issued at any point in the year for any time frame. Students who receive OSS or alternative school will be dismissed from the band. Upon request, those students may meet with the directors and parents to determine if they should remain in the program. Infractions in ANY class that result in discipline logs, ISS, or OSS are considered applicable to this policy.

AS A MEMBER OF THE FLAMES BAND, YOU MUST:

BE A LISTENER: listen to what is being said during rehearsals

BE RESPECTFUL: show respect for directors, guests, peers, and others property

BE PUNCTUAL: on time to classes and performances (early is on time, on time is late, late is unacceptable)

BE PREPARED: always have the right supplies and materials for your task

BE CLEAN: water only in the band room and clean up messes (leave it better than you found it)

At all times, you are a representative of Blackman Middle School and the Blackman Community. These expectations are set for you to enjoy your experience in band and so it may be enjoyable for everyone else too. We expect you to participate and give your best in all rehearsals.

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CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

- Drop instrument off in your band room slot as soon as you arrive at school then go to holding area.
- Take instrument with you at the end of class and drop off in your 8th period class when taking it home.
- All students must enter the band room from the 300 hallway. Even when you are meeting in the auditorium. Do not enter or exit through the auditorium OR the back door of the band room unless approved to do so by the directors.
- Walk down the music hallway and enter the band room at a calm pace and reasonable volume.
- Be inside the classroom before the tardy bell/time. You have 2 minutes following the bell/time to be in your seat with your instrument AND music out and ready. Get your things out and set up FIRST. Not being in your seat with everything out 2 minutes after the bell/time will result in a tardy.
- If you need music or supplies, ask the directors at the beginning of class after you have gotten your instrument out of your case.
- Backpacks go behind your chair. Small cases go under or beside your chair. Larger cases go in the back of the room.
- Raise your hand for questions or to get up. Stay in your seat during rehearsals.
- Cell phones MUST remain silent and in backpacks (school-wide policy).
- Dismissal is at 2 minutes before the dismissal bell/time. Do not leave the room before being dismissed.
- At the end of rehearsal, put everything away in its proper place. Cases closed/zippered. Percussion put away/bag mallets. Music in slots or backpacks.
- Pick up any trash and loose items, straighten chairs, and take all of your things with you.

BEING PREPARED AND HAVING SELF-DISCIPLINE ARE ESSENTIAL TO YOUR SUCCESS AS A MUSICIAN

GRADING POLICY

All band student grades will be averaged from the following categories:

- Daily Grade: 40% (classroom conduct, preparation, materials)
- Objectives: 40% (playing assignments submitted on flipgrid for BAND KARATE)
- Performance: 20% (performances in and outside of class, written tests, return forms)

All forms that are sent home are required to be returned signed by a parent or guardian as part of the student's daily grade. Any student earning an "F" in band class will be on membership probation for one nine week period. The second instance may result in dismissal from the band.

INSTRUMENT PRACTICE

Outside of class practice is essential to every band member's progress. Students will be expected to perform regularly both in and outside of class for a grade. These performance evaluations will be given a grade based upon music accuracy and technique. Practice is critical to having successful playing evaluations throughout the school year. We recommend that instruments go home daily for all of our students when it is possible.

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LESSONS

Private lesson teachers visit our school and give lessons during band class time as scheduled. The cost involved is decided between the private instructor and the student's parents. Lesson money is paid by the parents to BMS and then BMS pays the instructor. Band students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons on a regular basis as this can improve their ability and the quality of our band. Students trying out for Mid-State or other honor bands should take lessons. Our students who play Oboe, Bassoon, French Horn and Percussion should take private lessons throughout the year. This is especially important in their first year.

The following is a list of teachers available during the school day for lessons:

Flute: Rebecca Murphy / email: flutelady50@yahoo.com

Clarinet: Tonya Lawson / email: tjlawson@bellsouth.net

Saxophone & Double Reed: Wilson Sharpe / email: wilson@sharpeclan.us / phone: (615) 427-2638

Trumpet & Horn: Mike George / email: mikegeorgemusic@gmail.com / phone: (615) 631-5694

Trombone, Baritone & Tuba: Will Elliott / email: welliott21@gmail.com / phone: (615) 426-2959

Percussion: Keith Dudek / email: kgdudek@hotmail.com / phone: (615) 869-8951

Additional teachers not available during the school day are located on the Blackman MS Band website.

MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

All band students are expected to have all of the materials needed for a successful class every day. These materials include, but are not limited to:

- Instrument
- Binder & pencil (with band book(s), sheet music, warm ups, scale sheets, rhythm sheets, etc.)
- Oil or grease for your instrument
- Extra reeds, neck straps
- Sticks/practice pad

PERFORMANCE DRESS

ALL band students will need to purchase a band t-shirt and concert polo (order form attached). In addition, ALL band members must own black dress shoes AND black dress pants or skirt to go with their band polo for concert performances. This is our uniform.

DAILY MATERIALS

Band books, sheet music and other personal items must have your initials or name on them. Materials checks will occur frequently and will be included in the daily grade (-3 points per missing item). Students who forget their instrument will be given work to do such as definitions, etc., for the entire period and have 5 points deducted from their daily grade. Students are required to keep up with materials and may be charged for replacement copies of music.

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BAND METHOD BOOK

6th Grade - Essential Elements Book 1 (yellow and white)

REQUIRED INSTRUMENT SPECIFIC SUPPLIES FOR ALL BAND MEMBERS

- Flutes: cleaning cloth and cleaning rod
- Clarinet & Saxes: Cleaning swab, at least one box of reeds (size 2.5), reed guard
- Brass: Valve/slide oil, slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake and cloth,
- Percussion: pair of drumsticks (IP-LD preferred; Vic Firth SD 1, 5B and 2B sizes are also allowed), pair of mallets (IP-F7 or IP-F8), stick bag is optional

Other optional supplies:

Complete care/cleaning kit, folding music stand, Digital Metronome or metronome app, tuner or tuner app.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT PURCHASING EQUIPMENT OR SUPPLIES

MONEY

Band instruction is offered free of charge by this school, but students are responsible for owning or renting an instrument for use in class and for the upkeep of that instrument. Books, shirts, extra equipment, and field trip or festival fees are the student's responsibility also unless notified. If any student has financial difficulties in these areas, they should contact the directors to see about getting assistance. Fee waivers apply in some cases. Parents should check with the directors. When turning in money please send in the form of a check made out to Blackman Middle Middle School or send cash in an envelope with the student's name on it and what it is for. Checks are the preferred method of payment.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS & TRANSPORTATION

School owned instruments will be offered to those students who play instruments that are typically very expensive to own and are not typically rented out by music dealers including tuba, baritone, french horn, bass clarinet, oboe, tenor and bari saxophones. Students who use these instruments are required to make an Upkeep-and-Repair deposit. This \$75 deposit is due at the beginning of the semester/year the instrument is used. The directors will provide specific information and sign out sheets to those who need them. All students using school owned instruments for the majority of the year must own *their own mouthpiece* for the instrument as well as straps, etc.


Students in all bands who play large instruments must work out procedures for home practice with the directors. Bus drivers can be worked with if you will call them. If you have concerns about instruments on the bus, please call RCS transportation at (615) 893-5815, ext. 22106.

CONFERENCES & COMMUNICATION

Parental support and open lines of communication are very important to the success of the band. If a problem arises we will contact you or set up a conference. We will make every effort to be available to speak with you anytime as our schedule allows. We encourage you to contact us anytime you have a question or comment. Information will appear on the band website, social media, through emails, and will be sent home frequently with students as well. Please make sure we have a good email address for you! Most memos are to be signed and returned for a grade. Please frequently check for band emails as well as with your child about memos and information.

REMIND APP

We will be communicating to all of our band parents this year using the Remind App in addition to sending out emails. Downloading the app is not required for you to use this group messaging service. Below are the instructions to join the group for your child's particular band grade level. One adult or guardian per family is expected to join our Remind group.

<p>BMS 6th Grade Band</p> 	<p><u>REQUIRED FORMS TO COMPLETE:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Agreement Form (attached)- Shirt Order Form (attached)- Private Lessons Form (attached) <p>For more information, please visit our website:</p> <p>bmsflamesband.weebly.com</p>
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Thank you for being a critical part of your child's education and supporting the Blackman Middle School Band program. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at bmsband@rcschools.net or call the school at (615) 893-5815. This will be an exciting year and we are looking forward to some great performances and great music!

David England & Thomas Chesnut
Blackman Middle School - Band Directors

BLACKMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL FLAMES BAND

6TH GRADE BAND: EVENTS CALENDAR (2023-2024)

AUGUST -----

Tuesday, 29th Band Information Meeting @ 6:00 pm in BMS Auditorium (VERY IMPORTANT FOR ALL PARENTS)
Thursday, 31st Instrument Rental @ BMS in Band Room (3:30 - 6:30 pm)
Friday, 25th DONATION DRIVE KICK-OFF

SEPTEMBER -----

Friday, 1st DONATION DRIVE TURN-IN #1
Friday, 8th DONATION DRIVE TURN-IN #2
Saturday, 9th Beginning Band Jump Start (9 am - 12 pm) @ BMS (ALL 6TH GRADE BAND SHOULD ATTEND)

NOVEMBER -----

Thursday, 30th 6th Grade AFTER SCHOOL Rehearsal (3:30 - 5:00 pm) (*REQUIRED FOR ALL 6TH GRADE BAND*)

DECEMBER -----

Monday, 11th 6th Grade Christmas Concert @ 6:00 pm (REQUIRED FOR ALL 6TH GRADE BAND)
Friday, 20th End of Quarter 2

MARCH -----

Friday, 15th End of 3rd Quarter
Saturday, 16th Percussion Fest @ BMS (*REQUIRED FOR ALL PERCUSSION*)

APRIL -----

Thursday, 11th Chamber Ensembles Concert @ 6:00 pm (*SELECT STUDENTS*)
Saturday, 20th BAND TRIP to Dollywood
Thursday, 25th 6th Grade AFTER SCHOOL Rehearsal (3:30 - 5:00 pm) (*REQUIRED FOR ALL 6TH GRADE BAND*)

MAY -----

Thursday, 2nd 6th Grade Spring Concert @ 6:00 pm
Saturday, 4th Solo & Ensemble Festival @ Oakland Middle School (*SELECT STUDENTS*)
Monday, 6th Percussion Rehearsal After School
Tuesday, 7th Percussion Ensemble Concert @ BHS (arrive 6PM, concert 7PM) (Required for ALL percussion)
Saturday, 11th 6th Grade Rutherford County All-Star Band @ BMS (*SELECT STUDENTS*)
Friday, 24th End of 4th Quarter

Blackman Middle School Band Policies and Expectations Agreement

Student Name _____ Period _____

I, the undersigned parent/guardian and student, have read and understand all policies, standards, and schedules set forth in the band packet for the 2023-24 academic year. I realize that we are responsible for all content included in the packet, particularly the grading policies and band calendar.

Both parent and student sign below:

parent/guardian signature

date

student signature

date

----- (please detach) -----

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DONATION DRIVE KICK-OFF: Friday, August 25th (Info packet to go home same day)

6TH GRADE BAND PARENT MEETING: Thursday, August 29th (BMS Auditorium)

Parent informational Meeting - in the BMS auditorium. This is a VERY important meeting! Information about upcoming events and the band program will be covered.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL NIGHT: Thursday, August 31st (Blackman MS Cafeteria)

INSTRUMENT JUMP START: Saturday, September 9th (Blackman MS)

Check email and Remind for more information!

David England & Thomas Chesnut
Blackman Middle School Band Directors
bmsband@rcschools.net

BLACKMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL FLAMES BAND

Polo & T-Shirt Order Form

Student's Name:	Grade:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>BMS BAND POLO & T-SHIRT:</u></p> <p>Your student will need to have BOTH a black <u>BMS Band Polo</u> (for concert attire) & a navy <u>BMS Band T-Shirt</u> (for pep band, trips, pictures, spirit days, etc.) to use in band. Shirt designs are the same as last year.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>ALL SIZES ARE ADULT</i> <i>*<u>EXCEPT FOR YOUTH LARGE</u></i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>CHOOSE FROM:</i> <i>*YL, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, OR 3XL</i></p>
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	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PRICE</u>
CONCERT POLO (REQUIRED):	<input style="width: 50px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	—	\$15 PER POLO (\$17 FOR 2XL, 3XL)
BAND T-SHIRT (REQUIRED):	<input style="width: 50px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	—	\$8 PER SHIRT (\$11 FOR 2XL, 3XL)

TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED: \$ _____

CASH (in an envelope with the student's name)

CHECK (with student's name on the memo line)