



# WILDCAT BANDS

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Dear Band Students and Parents,

We welcome you to the new school year. We are happy to continue co-teaching the middle school bands this year as this design opens up many opportunities for our students. We both will engage students in music making activities to grow their musical understanding and increase their performance abilities.

Please find the attached outline of classroom policies and procedures designed to help rehearsals run smoothly and efficiently, instill a strong sense of personal responsibility, and to challenge students to higher levels of musical achievement. Students in the Blanchester Middle School Bands will study a variety of band literature in various styles, periods, genres, and difficulty levels to assure a well-rounded music experience for all. We use the method book series *Standard of Excellence* as a spring board to increase student knowledge and skills for both the individual instrumentalist and the ensembles.

Student assessment occurs in a number of ways including weekly musicianship, recorded assignments, individual playing quizzes, written work, as well as concert performance achievement and attendance. We plan to continue the use of SmartMusic Intelligent Accompaniment Software as one tool to assess student progress. We encourage you to check into the Smart Music program at [www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com). We will contact you again before we start its use.

Please note the attached performance schedule, classroom expectations, assessment procedures, and the student-parent contract. **Students are required to attend performances as scheduled.** Any additions to the rehearsal/performance schedules will be announced well in advance. Additional performances may include community events, festival appearances, small ensembles, and community service opportunities.

Please contact us with any questions you have at the numbers or email listed at the top of this letter. We usually check messages before and after school.

Musically Yours,

Mrs. Kimberlee Bisig and Mr. David Wood, Band Directors

# **Blanchester Middle School Bands Course Outline** **2016-2017**

## **Middle School Band Mission**

**Empowering students with strategies, techniques, and tools  
to develop both independent and cooperative musicianship.**

### **Required Concert Dates:**

- Friday, September 23 - Youth Night Performance at HS Football Game (7th & 8th bands)
- Friday, November 11-Veteran's Day Observation (8<sup>th</sup> grade band)
- Wednesday, December 14 - Holiday Concert-HS Gym (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> bands) - 7:00 pm  
[Back up date - Wednesday, December 21]
- Tuesday, March 14 - MS Winter Concert-7:00pm (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> bands)  
[Back up date-Thursday, March 16]
- Saturday, March 25 - OMEA Junior High Solo and Ensemble (7th & 8th students)
- TBA Additional Music in Our Schools Month Performance
- Tuesday, May 16 - MS Spring Concert (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> bands) - 7:00 pm
- Fri/Sat, May 13 OMEA JH Large Group Event or a Trills and Thrills Festival in May
- TBA NJHS induction (7th & 8th bands)

For your information: Saturday, February 11, 2017, we are ***hosting*** the OMEA High School Solo and Ensemble at the Middle School.

**Required Concert Attire:** Band polo shirt, khaki pants, and nice shoes

**Band Fee:** No fee, unless you need to purchase a new polo shirt, \$11.00, or book, \$7.00.  
(Checks made payable to: *Blanchester Middle School Band*).

**Musicianship** is a large part of the nine week's grade. This includes:

- Responsibilities - being prepared for class: instrument, music, pencil, book, oil, grease, and/or reeds.
- Posture, tone production, articulation/technique, and appropriate music making behavior.
- Actively engaged in the rehearsal.
- Home practicing!

**Nine weeks grade based on:** (100%)

1. Musicianship – 40% - see checklist and home practice logs
2. Performance – 30%
3. Playing assignments (quiz/test) – 20%
4. Written assignments (in class/homework/quiz/test) – 10%

## Weekly Musicianship Checklist

Each band/choir student earns a weekly musicianship grade.  
Listed below are the criteria for determining each week's grade.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 20 Points       | The student always has needed materials at hand and in order for class: pencil, music folder, sheet music, method books, instrument specific materials-reeds, oils, drum key, mallets, approved sticks.<br>The student always actively engages in rehearsal without hesitation.<br>The student consistently demonstrates proper posture for playing. |
| 15 Points<br>or | The student wastes valuable time by having to search for materials once,<br>The student is found not using proper posture once during the week, or<br>The student is found not actively engaging in rehearsal once.  |
| 10 Points<br>or | The student is missing materials/has to search for them on 2 occasions,<br>The student is found not using proper posture on two occasions, or<br>The student is found not actively engaging in rehearsal two times.  |
| 5 Points<br>or  | The student is missing materials/has to search for them on 3 occasions,<br>The student is found not using proper posture on three occasions, or<br>The student is found not actively engaging in rehearsal three times.  |
| 0 Points<br>or  | The student is missing materials/has to search for them on 4 occasions,<br>The student is found not using proper posture on four occasions, or<br>The student is found not actively engaging in rehearsal four times.  |

**Discipline:** Class disruptions such as horseplay, excessive talking, or inappropriate actions will not be tolerated. The following guidelines will be followed:

1<sup>st</sup> Offense = Verbal warning

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense = Written assignment and/or contacting parent

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense = Office referral

**GUM CHEWING, EATING, OR DRINKING** of any kind is ***not permitted*** during any rehearsal or performance (unless there is a medical reason/doctor's note). Failure to follow this policy will result the consequences.

**Vandalism** to instruments, band equipment, or the band room will result in immediate removal from class. The damaged item(s) will be repaired or replaced at the student's expense.

**Sign and return to Mrs. Bisig/Mr. Wood by Friday, August 19, 2016**

*I have read and understand the Blanchester Middle School Band Course Outline. The requirements and expectations are clearly stated for this course. I am making my commitment to participate in the required performances.*

Student's Name & Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent email: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent email:

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to contact parent: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer or help chaperon events. Please check any events you are interested in helping out with:

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday, September 23-Youth Night Performance at HS Football Game

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday, November 11-Veteran's Day Observation—8<sup>th</sup> grade band

\_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday, December 14 - Holiday Concert-HS Gym-7:00pm- 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> bands

Back up date-Wednesday, December 21

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, February 11-We are **hosting** the OMEA High School Solo and Ensemble

at the Middle School.

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, March 14 - MS Winter Concert-7:00pm- 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> bands

Back up date-Thursday, March 16

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TBA Additional Music in Our Schools Month Performance

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, May 16 - MS Spring Concert- 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> bands-7pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Fri/Sat, May 13 OMEA JH Large Group Event or a Trills and Thrills Festival in May

\_\_\_\_\_ TBA NJHS induction—8<sup>th</sup> grade band

While all returning students should already have a band polo, if one is needed, please notify Mrs. Bisig. The cost of a new polo is \$11.00. Please get money turned in to Mrs. Bisig **no later than**

**September 1st.** If you have outgrown your band polo shirt, you may *exchange* your shirt for a larger size. **Please indicate polo shirt size needed:** \_\_\_\_\_