



2019-20 Handbook

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WELCOME

We are honored to have you in the band program at Brambleton Middle School! The Brambleton Bands are comprised of hard working, kind, and successful musician-citizens who are eager to learn new concepts and collaborate with one another to create the most musical experiences imaginable. As the bear is our mascot, students will #CLIMB to their success in all aspects of school, both academic and social. As members of a 500-piece program, our musicians will Create, Lead, Inspire, Motivate, and Believe, in a way that will make our band program one of the finest in Loudoun County and Virginia. Within our school, band members will be leaders in their other classes as they transfer the hard work and dedication required to be a successful musician into the other academic disciplines. A long tradition of excellence for the Brambleton Bands will begin with you.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Brambleton Middle School Band exists to serve the *musical* education of its members. Through various experiences of music-making and listening, students hone both the craft of creating music in an expressive manner and the understanding that doing so improves their quality of life. The *musical* educational goals of the program are for students to:

1. Derive a sense of self-worth and empathy for others through creative music-making.
2. Develop an understanding of how the habits that lead to high quality music-making parallel the habits of highly successful people – motivation, dedication, self-discipline.
3. Embrace a lifelong goal of increasing their musical enjoyment and understanding.

By engaging in opportunities to make beautiful music both alone and with others, the musicians in the Brambleton Band will become artistic citizens, putting music to work for the positive transformation of themselves, the band program, Brambleton Middle School and the community of Brambleton, Virginia.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

All students in the Brambleton Middle School Band will experience a musical education that is centered around the premise that all children are musically inclined, regardless of their current level of musical understanding. Within a positive classroom environment, students will engage in challenging music-making projects that will empower and welcome them to develop their musical abilities and interests in multiple contexts. Creating music through performance, composition, improvisation, and arranging, students will learn how to apply their skills both analytically and imaginatively. The techniques and skills required to make music will constantly be enhanced as to improve the student's ability to communicate expressively.

BAND WEBSITE – BrambletonBand.org

This website will be your best source for all information related to the Brambleton Middle School Band program. The website will be updated regularly and contains a variety of information. Please bookmark it on the devices you use and check it often.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

Students will be taught and demonstrate daily how professional musicians prepare for rehearsal, rehearse, and close out rehearsal. Certain materials are required to make every class successful, and students will be graded on the rehearsal techniques modeled by the directors. The band room is a space for musical experimentation, and all students will encourage one another throughout the process.

- Any behavior that is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand.
- Students will follow directors' instructions.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal time with all equipment, including music, pencil, instrument, and all supplies daily (see detailed supply list for each instrument).
- Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
- Students will keep cell phones *silent & out of sight* during instruction unless directed for use.
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument or personal belongings.
- Students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that time will be utilized wisely and as efficiently as possible.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
- Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.
- Students will not write on the dry-erase boards without permission from a director.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band member websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, photo sharing, emailing, or texting, etc., appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' websites. The areas of inappropriateness will include but are not limited to profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other LCPS teaching staff or band members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band.

COURSES OFFERED

6th Grade Band (curricular)

- Students are scheduled based on their instrument and instrument family.
- Band class is 40 minutes every other day.
- Two concerts are programmed: January 25 & June 5 or 7 (depending on the student)
- Beginning Band is a learning process involving skills that develop over time. To become successful multiple years of study must occur!

7th Grade Band (curricular)

- Students are placed in either the Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, or Concert Band
- Band class is 40-45 minutes every other day, & students are encouraged to use resource time to continue their musical work
- Two concerts are scheduled, with a Hershey Park trip performance.
- Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble perform at a Pre-Assessment concert & at the VBODA Concert Band Performance Assessment (see calendar)

8th Grade Band (curricular)

- The 8th Grade Band is split into the Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble
- In addition to the Winter & Spring Concerts, these bands performs at the Virginia Concert Band Performance Assessment and at a pre-Assessment concert
- Students are invited to perform in a concert and attend the Hershey Park trip.

Jazz Ensemble (extracurricular) – The Jazz Ensemble is comprised of saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and a rhythm section featuring a drum set, piano, bass (electric and/or upright), electric guitar, and a vibraphonist. Jazz Ensemble will be open to students interested in performing jazz who are both in good standing in their regular band class and have demonstrated the musical and social maturity necessary to engage in another musical undertaking. This group rehearses before or after school and not necessarily on days that after school buses run. Students are responsible for their own transportation.

Chamber Music (extracurricular – 2nd semester) – During the second semester, 7th and 8th graders will have an opportunity to form groups of smaller ensembles. The following ensembles are possible if there is an appropriate amount of interest: Flute Choir, Oboe Choir, Clarinet Choir, Saxophone Choir, Trumpet Choir, Horn Choir, Low Brass Choir, Full Brass Choir, and Percussion Ensemble. These choirs rehearse before or after school and not necessarily on days that after school buses run. Students are responsible for their own transportation.

CARE OF FACILITIES

Our school is brand new – it is in PERFECT condition. We are privileged to be given such a beautiful center for learning. Students will leave spaces better than how they found them. Brambleton Middle School’s music wing should look brand new for years.

- No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the building except when authorized by the directors.
- All trash (paper, broken reeds, etc.) is to be deposited in the wastebaskets provided.

- Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with swiftly and appropriately. Every band member is responsible to help the directors monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes writing or carving on walls, destroying music, or breaking school property.
- Absolutely no student is allowed in the practice rooms without permission.

ATTENDANCE

In order to maintain a high-quality band program, attendance from all members is essential. While the Brambleton MS Band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for our program. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day.

Excused Absence

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials etc. will not be an excuse for absence. An absence due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by director) may be considered for excused status. Students who are continually ill may be required to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to ensure the well-being of the child and to reduce concerns of the band directors. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director.

Unexcused Absence

Students with an unexcused absence from any required band activity will receive a zero in the grade book. Unexcused absences from after school rehearsals can be made up for half credit by attending morning practice sessions. Concerts cannot be made up.

Concerts/Performances

Concerts and performances are an integral component of the band curriculum. Students should consult their schedules for dates and times. Each of the bands will perform at various times throughout the school year and are mandatory. Periodically, the schedule may change and updates will be communicated. Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening. The concert begins for the student at the warm-up. Punctuality is essential. A concert concludes when the last group performs and directors have given permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students. In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Metronome/Tuner – either as a smartphone app or device bought separately
 - a. TE Tuner is recommended (\$3.99). Metrotimer & insTuner are free.
 - b. (optional) A clip-on microphone is necessary for use in a multi-person ensemble: [Link](#)
2. Pencil(s)
3. Agenda – This also serves as the bathroom/hall pass
4. Essential Elements for Band, Book 1 (6th Grade), Book 2 (7th and 8th Grade)
5. All band literature given by the teacher (method book, sheet music, fundamentals packet, etc.)
6. 7th and 8th Graders: Black 1/2” 3-ring binder with Clear Cover - [Buy on Amazon](#)

INSTRUMENT RENTALS FOR SIXTH GRADE

- **All Sixth Grade band students purchase “Essential Elements for Band, Book 1”**
- The following instruments are rented (or purchased *after consulting with the band director*) from a local music store or reputable online store – **must be done before the school year begins. See the Band Website for local music store information.**
 - Flute
 - Oboe
 - Clarinet
 - Trumpet
 - Trombone
- The following instruments are rented through Brambleton Middle School:
 - Bassoon
 - French horn
 - Baritone/Euphonium
 - Tuba
- Percussionists rent their xylophone kit through Washington Music and purchase a stick bag for carrying drumsticks and mallets to & from school. www.rentfromchucks.com
 - Stick Bag: [Link to purchase stick bag online](#)
- **Necessary accessories to ensure proper working condition of instruments:**
 - Flute: cleaning/tuning rod, silk swab, polishing cloth
 - Oboe: silk swab, cork grease, Jones MEDIUM-SOFT reeds (at least 2)
 - wildflowerreeds.com INTERMEDIATE beginning in November
 - or reed purchased from private teacher
 - Clarinet: silk swab, cork grease, Mitchell Lurie reeds: strength 2½ (at least 3)
 - Bassoon: silk swab, bocal swab, cork grease, Jones reed MEDIUM-SOFT, or reeds purchased through teacher
 - Trumpet: Yamaha Synthetic valve oil, polishing cloth, tuning slide grease, snake, mouthpiece brush
 - French horn: rotor oil, polishing cloth, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush
 - Trombone: Slide-O-Mix Rapid Comfort, tuning slide grease, polishing cloth, mouthpiece brush, snake
 - Baritone/Tuba: Yamaha Synthetic valve oil, tuning slide grease, polishing cloth, mouthpiece brush

TUTORING – GUIDED PRACTICE

Mr. Blount and Ms. Charriez are available before school to work with students through *guided practice*. Students are also welcome to come at this time to practice on their own or with peers. The band room is a safe space for our musicians, so we are open *every day*! We ask that students who come in the morning report *directly* to the band room, making no stop at their locker. Plan ahead and have all necessary materials with you.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Students who study with a professional on their instrument improve at a faster rate and tend to enjoy performing more because of the added support and ensuing success. Private instructors are master pedagogues and tailor lessons to the child's individual needs, which vary from player to player. Students gain inspiration from the modeling done by the instructor, and the pacing is set by the individual, not the class. Private lessons are for everyone – the student who feels he or she might need extra help to the student who feels the need for more of a challenge and aspires to be the best on his or her instrument! Lessons are not meant to be a short-term endeavor, but rather a multi-year journey with an instructor to help you see beyond your potential. Please visit the Private Lessons tab on the band website for a list of instructors.

GRADING

By coming to class, rehearsals, and concerts on time and prepared with all necessary materials, students are setting themselves up to receive an A in band. Through focused efforts both in school and at home, students are setting themselves up for good grades in the performance assessment of their playing. Students not satisfied with their level of playing on certain performances (grade lower than B) will be given opportunities to re-take. While a “re-take” is not a reality of live performance, our goal in music education is the growth that students achieve. After coming in the morning for guided practice, a student can re-take an assessment. Students are graded along the following criteria:

1. **Classroom Rehearsal Techniques** - Students will be taught and demonstrate daily how professional musicians prepare for rehearsal, rehearse, and close out rehearsal. Certain materials are required to make every class successful, and students will be graded on the rehearsal techniques modeled by the directors.
2. **Performance Assessments** – in the form of in-class playing and submissions through Google Classroom or Charms
3. **After School Rehearsals**
4. **Final Project: Concert Performance**

DISTRICT-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

LCPS will provide a limited number of instruments for student use at \$100 per year. Payment is accepted at <https://tinyurl.com/BandRental19>. These instruments include more expensive instruments such as the bassoon, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone, euphonium, and tuba. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high

expense. Thus, all district-owned equipment must be handled with optimum care. Students failing to take proper care of their school-issued instrument may lose the privilege to use such instruments.

The following is a list of general procedures for district-owned instruments:

- If possible, students who play large instruments and are dependent upon LCPS buses may be issued one instrument for home use and one for school use. This will be at the discretion of the directors and will be based on instrument availability and transportation needs.
- LCPS does not provide insurance for individually owned or district-owned equipment. It is important for all students utilizing district-owned instruments to provide insurance coverage for the instrument that has been issued to them. Students/Parents will be held responsible for all district-owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse and general maintenance not incurred through normal use.
- Students and parents must sign an instrument checkout form before the student can use the instrument.
- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Each issued instrument will be checked prior to issue. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
- If an LCPS instruments malfunctions, do not attempt to fix it yourself. Bring it to the attention of the directors.

Special Note – District-owned instruments are not to be treated as "free" instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased, and repairs must still be made just like personally owned instruments. Please strive to treat these instruments as if they were your own.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE & IDENTIFICATION

Brambleton has one of the largest and nicest instrument storage rooms in the county. Students will be given an assigned space within the storage room, and band related items may be stored here. Students will follow the flow chart through the room as specified by the directors. Every student must have his/her name fastened to the outside and/or inside of his/her instrument case. Also, be sure to keep a record of the serial number of your instrument in the event it is stolen or lost.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

It is the philosophy of the Brambleton Middle School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. We believe that students receive a 100% educational return on all investments. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the director.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Sixth Grade Bands: Band polo, khaki pants, dress shoes, brown belt if applicable

7th & 8th Grade Bands: Black dress shirt/blouse and pants/skirt ordered through Mr. Blount in the Fall, black dress shoes, black belt for boys

Spring Trip Performance: 7th and 8th graders participating in the spring trip must wear their Band T-shirt

Band apparel is worn as a concert uniform and at any time to show support for our program! We regret that the boys' and girls' uniforms are not priced identically; the girls' uniform is extremely beautiful as you will see.

- Band T-shirt ~ \$10 – anyone, required for all 7th & 8th graders participating in the Spring Trip
- Band Polo ~ \$15 – all 6th Grade Band students
- Symphonic Band dress uniform (boys) ~ \$45 – 7th & 8th Grade Band students
- Symphonic Band uniform (girls) ~ \$60 – 7th & 8th Grade Band students

CONCERT ETIQUETTE FOR A BAND CONCERT AUDIENCE

1. Always arrive early. Do not enter while a group is performing. Wait to enter (and exit) between pieces and sit in the back of the performance hall when arriving late.
2. Silence all electronic devices that will distract the performers on stage.
3. If you must leave before the concert is finished, wait until the group is finished performing and exit during the applause.
4. Always applaud the conductor when he or she enters the stage and after the musical selection is finished.
5. If a musical selection is in several movements (sections), do not applaud between movements. Wait until the end of the piece. Read the program for indications as to whether the piece will be more than one movement. If all else fails, wait for the conductor to turn around and acknowledge the audience.
6. Never shout, whistle, or bring attention to yourself. If you like what is being performed, stand up and applaud. Others may join you. A standing ovation should be given for very special and outstanding performances. It is the sincerest form of appreciation an audience can give performers.
7. **Do not talk during the performance** or allow small children to make noises, leave their seats, or distract other members of the audience.
8. Do not take flash pictures or be in the aisles with video cameras. This distracts the audience as well as the performers.
9. ***Remember, the performers put a great deal of time rehearsing for the performance. Your respect, praise, and appreciation are welcome!***

SOLO/ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL – All Grade Levels

Students are highly encouraged to prepare a solo or small group for the county's Solo/Ensemble Festival. Students perform their repertoire on Saturday, April 18 at Eagle Ridge MS, and are given constructive written and verbal feedback regarding their performance. The premise for such an event is to learn how to prepare music more independently and GROW from the process involved.

DISTRICT BAND AUDITIONS/EVENT – 7th & 8th Grade

Students are invited to audition for the All-District Band, an honor band made up of the best players (based on a blind audition) in the county. Students prepare scales, a short piece, and sight read (perform a piece they are seeing for the first time). 8th graders are required to audition; 7th graders are highly encouraged.

DISTRICT JAZZ ASSESSMENT & HONOR BAND

Students who participate in Jazz Ensemble are invited to audition for an honor band like the All-District Band, but of a jazz variety. As a separate event, the Brambleton Jazz Ensemble prepares literature for Jazz Assessment, an event where adjudicators from across the commonwealth provide meaningful verbal and written feedback to our performance. Jazz Assessment is a requirement of Jazz Ensemble membership.

SPRING MUSIC TRIP – 7th & 8th Grade Only

We have the option to offer students an extra performance in the Spring that coincides with a visit to a theme park. This involves friendly musical competition with other bands hosted by a school near a theme park. Information is sent out early in the 2nd semester, and an estimated fee of \$120 is assessed to cover charter buses, park admission, & the performance fee. Students earn the trip in the following way:

1. No suspensions during the school year
2. Attend all rehearsals for the trip; Perform in every required concert to that point in the year

SUMMER MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES – All Grade Levels

During the Summer, band camps occur throughout Loudoun County and Virginia. These camps are designed for students who have yet to step foot into the band classroom through students who have three or more years' experience. Attending one of these will make your child feel confident to start the new school year, as well as give them the opportunity to meet students from other schools in the area. And most importantly, they are FUN! Look for information on the website this Spring regarding camps.

FUNDRAISING

Throughout the year we will have opportunities to grow the funds in the school's band account. Money raised is used to bring in guest clinicians, order new instruments and music, and various other musically educational and instructional activities. Please consider participating in these activities when the time comes!

EQUIPMENT UPGRADES

As students mature and commit to a higher degree, an upgrade in their equipment will aid in the beauty and ease of their performing. The following are recommendations for upgraded instruments and accessories:

- Flute: Yamaha YFL-462 or YFL-382
- Oboe: Fox 330, handmade reeds – email Ms. Charriez for information
- Clarinet: Buffet E-11, E-12, or R-13; Vandoren 5RV-Lyre Profile 88 mouthpiece
- Alto Sax: Yamaha YAS-480; Selmer S80 (C*) mouthpiece or Vandoren AL4 mouthpiece
- Trumpet: Bach Stradivarius or Yamaha Xeno; Bach 3C mouthpiece
- Trombone: Yamaha YSL-448, Bach Stradivarius 42
- Euphonium: Schilke 51D mouthpiece – check bore size with Mr. Blount before purchasing
- Tuba: Baltimore Brass Company Tuba Rest (stand): [LINK](#)
- Percussion: Stagg 3-octave xylophone: [LINK](#)

All Students: Smart Music – a web-based music education platform where students can receive immediate feedback as they practice. Features a large repertory of literature to learn and perform