

St. Bernard Catholic School



2021-2022 Band Handbook



A Warm Welcome to each of our St. Bernard Band Members and Families!
Here is some information to get you started in the 2021-2022 school year. If you have any questions, please ask. I can't wait to get to know each of you. We are going to have a fantastic school year making masterfully, beautiful music!

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St. Bernard Catholic School Band Program Philosophy

Band is a wonderfully unique opportunity. Students will not only develop musical skills, but also teamwork, creativity, and leadership. As students continue to improve, they will become more confident in themselves and will find that the lessons taught in band can be applied to all areas of life. Band prepares students not just for concerts and performances, but for their futures. The mission of the St. Bernard Catholic School Band Program is to inspire the life-long qualities of perseverance and excellence — musically and beyond — in the mind, body, and spirit of everyone involved, while maintaining a positive, family-oriented, and unified atmosphere that is both challenging and supportive, in accordance with the values of the Catholic faith.

Band Program Goals

- ^ To provide a safe and healthy environment for students to learn.
- ^ To provide a strong knowledge of musical concepts through creation and re-creation of music.
- ^ To provide opportunities for students to use their musical knowledge in varied musical situations i.e. use in weekday and weekend liturgy.
- ^ To provide students access to unique learning opportunities outside of the classroom.
- ^ To provide the students with tools that can be used in various situations for the rest of their lives.
- ^ To promote a long-lasting appreciation and application of the arts in students' lives beyond the classroom.

Ensembles

St. Bernard Catholic School Band Program is open to ALL students grades 4 through 8 who demonstrate the desire, ability, and proper attitude to be a member of the group.

Beginning Band:

This is the beginning level band made up of any student starting on an instrument. We work on building strong ensemble skills while developing playing technique. Time will also be devoted to listening to many different styles of music and reflection of performances, along with beginning composition and improvisation.

Middle School Band:

Prerequisite: Previous band experience. This is the upper-level ensemble made up of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band members. We continue to build on things learned in Beginning Band, learning more advanced skills and techniques. The Middle School band has more performance opportunities. These students are the leaders of the band program.

Jazz Ensemble:

Prerequisite: Previous band experience, along with concurrent enrollment in the Spirit or Varsity Bands. Exceptions may be made for students who take private lessons on piano, bass, guitar, or drum set. Students must have the director's approval for admission. This course provides instruction in jazz-related rhythm, tone, style, concept, listening skills, history and improvisation. The ultimate goal of this ensemble is to give interested students an opportunity to study and perform jazz ensemble literature while learning to listen to and appreciate improvised jazz music.

Band Tools

You will need certain tools, in addition to your instrument, to be successful. They are as follows:

Books:

All St. Bernard Band Members will be using the **Standard of Excellence** band method books for our large ensemble and lesson work. These books are available at Jim's, Heid's, and Instrumental Music Company music stores. **4th Grade Beginners** and **Spirit Band** members need **Book 1**, while **Varsity Band** members need **Book 2**. All Band Students also need a **1- inch 3 ring binder** with **clear sheet sleeves** to hold our sheet music. This is the most secure way of storing music.

Necessary Accessories:

Brass players (trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba) need **Al Cass Fast Valve, Slide, & Key Oil**.

French horn requires **Holton Rotary Valve Oil**.

Reed players (clarinet, alto and tenor saxophones, oboe, bassoon) need reeds specific to their instrument.

Beginning clarinets need **Mitchell Lurie Clarinet Reeds Strength 2.5**. All other clarinet players need **Mitchell Lurie Clarinet Reeds Strength 3 (Box of 10)**.

Beginning alto saxophonists need **Rico Alto Saxophone Reeds Strength 2.5**. Beginning tenor saxophonists need **Rico Tenor Saxophone Reeds Strength 2.5**. All other saxophonists can continue using the Rico brand reed, but bump the strength up to 3. Clarinets and saxophones need **Cork Grease**. Oboe players need **Jones Oboe Reeds - Medium**. Bassoon players need **Jones Bassoon Reed - Medium**.

Percussionists need one set of matching concert sticks. **Any SD1 General Wood Tip** does the job nicely.

Lessons

All St. Bernard Band Students receive a weekly band lesson, privately and/or in a small group.

This is a privilege we need to show the highest respect for. We show respect by putting our lessons days on our calendar, making reminder notes, and asking those closest to us to remind us. We do not rely solely on one of these, but regularly use all three, until your lesson time becomes ingrained in your regular weekly schedule. Please be on time for your lessons. Leave your classroom with enough time to arrive in the band room, set up your instrument and be ready to play when your lesson is scheduled to start.

Missed Lessons due to illness or classroom test or presentation will be excused. You will complete an "Excused Missed Lesson Form" within one week of the missed lesson. This form must be signed by your parent if you were ill, or by the teacher for whom you were taking the test or giving the presentation. Forms are located in the band room.

Lessons missed due to forgetfulness will result in a lower grade. The forgotten lesson can and should be made up, with the grade then being slightly higher than if you just missed it altogether.

Beginners will continue with lessons only, until such time as they are ready to join the Beginning Band. Once they can join the Beginning Band, Beginning Band students will have a weekly lesson along with band twice a week, same as all the band students enjoy.

Practice

Practice is required homework for all band students. Practice will improve the individual performance skills of each member and is necessary to have a high-level band experience. Each student should practice enough to perform each passage of a piece to recording quality. The minimum weekly amount of practice should be **one-hundred minutes**. Success comes from regular practice.



How to Practice

Practice is not playing a piece in its entirety. Use the following tips to practice correctly. Ask a director if you need more instruction on practice. Beginning a practice session is the hardest part, but once you begin, you will find many tasks to accomplish.

- Schedule a time every day to practice.
- Practice someplace quiet, free of distraction.
- Set daily and weekly goals.
- Mark and practice sections of the piece that the director says needs work.
- Recording a practice session is helpful if you feel you cannot hear what needs to be improved.
- Always use correct posture, embouchure, and hand position.
- Practice small manageable sections of music.
- Practice the passage very slowly and accurately with several repetitions.
- Gradually increase the tempo of the passage.
- If errors are still occurring, slow the tempo again.
- If errors are still occurring, change the style or articulation of the passage.
- Move on to another section and repeat.
- Combine sections while practicing slowly and accurately.

Classroom Guidelines

These six simple guides will help us to have productive rehearsals and quality performances.

1. Be in your seat with your instrument and music, ready to play and learn, when rehearsal begins two minutes after entering the band room.
2. Remain seated, quietly listening when the director is at the podium. Raise your hand to be called on to speak.
3. Eat or drink outside of the band room. Water is okay.
4. Have a pencil on your stand and use it to make notes in your music often.
5. Respect the opinions, ability levels, and belongings of others in the class.
6. Practice your music outside of class so that you are prepared for rehearsals.

Discipline Policy

Music learning requires 100% attention at all times. The great enjoyment and extraordinary benefits music performance offers can only be achieved through goal oriented and dedicated hard work.

The concept of "Team Work" in a band is very similar to that of great athletes in their constant individual focus on their goals while having to be a "team player" to actually get there. Every player in a band is important, and can affect the group as a whole in a positive or negative way. Our classroom guidelines are based upon respect for each other, learning, and the safety of all.

We cannot afford to be distracted from making music because of inappropriate behavior choices. Students who have chosen to commit themselves to participation in a band program usually understand and demonstrate the virtues and self-discipline required, and are able to consistently maintain them. However, we are an educational institution and require such a policy in the event a behavioral choice requires further learning on a student's part. Discipline will take place in the following order:

- 1.) Redirection
- 2.) Re-teach
- 3.) Correction
- 4.) Warning
- 5.) Parent Call
- 6.) Meeting with Principal

Grading Policies



10% Class Preparation-Pencil, Music Binder, Sheet Music, Method Book, & Working Inst/Equip. Daily.

^ Students who fail to prepare for class are unable to rehearse and learn within our performance based art. If your instrument is at the repair shop, ask for a loner from the repair shop, St. Bernard, or a friend who plays the same

instrument. Be sure to take your mouthpiece and reeds out of the case before you send it to the repair shop.



20% Rehearsal Participation - Twice weekly (Required Attendance)

^ Rehearsal is where we learn all of the skills, techniques, and music required to create beautiful music in an ensemble worthy of public performance. All learning in this setting is group learning. We learn by watching, listening, modeling, assessing, critiquing, and supporting

each other. Every person is linked to every other's learning, thus making their presence absolutely important.

50% Performance Participation-Concerts & Parades (Required Attendance)

^ A performance is the most important event we have. It is the culmination of all of the hard work we do in class, during outside of school rehearsals, and is what we are preparing for. It is the showcase of our student's amazing talents. It is also a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in any other way as we are a performance art. As with any sports team, a band has many players, each and every player has a part to play in the performance that cannot be replaced or made up. Every person is counting on the next; this is an aspect of the band that makes it so great (working together)! We encourage you to make each and every performance a family event.



*****Any unexcused absence from a performance or rehearsal results in a loss of all possible points for that assignment.*****

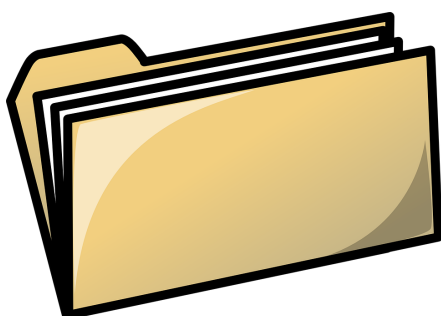


15% Lessons- Private and/or small group. Weekly. (Required Attendance)

^ Lessons are an essential part of the band experience. This is when we work on techniques unique to your instrument. When the time is right, we can move you to a higher level and cultivate your new skill level.

In your band lessons we will cover material in your method book, band music, and other materials that will help you to grow as a musician. It is imperative that you remember to bring your instrument and music to your lesson.

Band Lesson Grades are based on how well you have prepared for each lesson. Practice for improvement earns you a favorable grade. Lack of practice, resulting in no improvement, earns you a less favorable grade.



5% Portfolio Assessment of Playing/Performance or Written Tests (As Assigned)

^ Students will perform excerpts (parts) of their music (sheet music or from one of their method books) individually or in small groups, each unit. This test will be announced at the beginning of each unit and written down in their St. Bernard planner. The playing test may consist of one or more of

the following musical aspects: tone, intonation, rhythm, pitch, phrasing, articulation, dynamics, meter, and steady beat. Tests may also include skills and techniques such as posture, embouchure, breathing, and sight reading. Written tests may consist of musical terms and/or various aspects of music theory and history. Students will be made aware of the grading rubric which will define the various levels of skill proficiency.



Additional Opportunities ^ Students may have the opportunity to play outside of school at church or for weddings or other celebrations. These events help students grow both musically and academically and will be considered for extra credit.

Awards & Recognition

Awards will be given at the discretion of the band director to students who have been in band all year.



MOST OUTSTANDING 8TH GRADE MUSICIAN - that has contributed to the betterment of St. Bernard Catholic School Bands.

OUTSTANDING MUSICIAN – Awarded to the most outstanding musician(s) in the band program.

BAND SERVICE AWARD – Awarded for extraordinary time and service to the band.

BEST SECTION AWARD – The section that has made extensive effort to master the music performed and has represented the band in a good light in all they do as a section.

RECOGNITION LETTER Presented to students according to years of involvement in the bands at St. Bernard Catholic School.

Performance Calendar

St. Bernard Catholic School Bands

Performance opportunities, in addition to the ones listed below, may arise throughout the school year. I will inform you of these events in a timely manner. It is your responsibility to mark all performance dates on your calendar and plan accordingly.

Date	Time	Event	Ensemble
Monday, December 13, 2021	6:30 p.m.	Winter Concert	Middle & Jazz Bands
Monday, May 9, 2022	6:30 p.m.	Spring Concert	Middle, Beginning, & Jazz Bands
		Solo Ensemble	Middle School Band

Band Handbook Receipt

Please sign and return to Ms. Winkler promptly after reading through the band handbook. Thank you!

I have received a copy of the St. Bernard Catholic School Band Handbook. I have read its contents and agree to abide by the guidelines and expectations within.

Student Name (print please) _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print please) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____