

Bon Lin Middle School

Band Handbook

Ben Tucker  
Director

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to the Bon Lin Middle School band program. My name is Benjamin Tucker, and I am your band director. I am very excited about the opportunity we have been given here to start a brand new program. We will need the support of all our parents to get this program started the right way. I hope that we can count on your support throughout the year as we move toward creating an established program in the area.

With that said, I want to take time to list out the rules and procedures that will be established for this band as well as the performance schedule for the coming year. Please read them carefully, especially those of you who are coming from another band program, as they may differ from what you are used to.

I have high expectations for this band program, and I look forward to getting to know all of you and teaching all my students the joy of making music.

-Benjamin Tucker  
Band Director  
[btucker@scsk12.org](mailto:btucker@scsk12.org)  
901-487-0675

## Band Supply List

### All Students:

Pencil

Essential Elements 2000

6th: Book 1

7th: Books 1 & 2

8th: Book 2

Optional:

Folding Music Stand (for home use)

Metronome

Tuner

**Flute:**

Cleaning/Tuning Rod

Flute Swab

Polishing Cloth

**Clarinet:**

Reeds (all students must keep a stock of at least 2 reeds at all times)

Cork Grease

Pull-through Swab

Mouthpiece Brush

**Saxophone:**

Reeds (all students must keep a stock of at least 2 reeds at all times)

Cork Grease

Pull-through Swab

Neck Strap

Mouthpiece Brush

**Trumpet/Baritone/Tuba:**

Valve Oil

Slide Grease

Polishing Cloth

Mouthpiece Brush

Vinyl Cleaning Snake

**French Horn:**

Rotor Oil

Tuning Slide Grease

Mouthpiece Brush

Polishing Cloth

Vinyl Cleaning Snake

**Trombone:**

Slide Oil

Tuning Slide Grease

Mouthpiece Brush

Polishing Cloth

Vinyl Cleaning Snake

## Percussion Supplies

All 6th grade percussion students will need to rent or buy a bell set and a practice pad. Many parents have found that purchasing is cheaper in the long run. Feel free to do either. They will also need a set of bell mallets, brass or nylon, and a set of drum sticks, size 2B or smaller. All 7th and 8th grade percussion students will need a set of drum sticks and a stick bag. They should also be prepared to purchase different mallets to build up a stock of their own (this is not a requirement, but a suggestion as they will need their own mallets in high school and beyond). All percussion students should also purchase a drum key.

## Local Stores

All of these supplies can be found at your local music stores. If you go anywhere other than Amro or Bartlett Music Academy, call ahead to see if they have the method book in stock.

Amro Music  
2918 Poplar Ave  
Memphis, TN 38111  
(901) 323-8888

Bartlett Music Academy  
6757 Stage Rd  
Bartlett, TN 38134  
(901) 213-4262

Lane Music  
9309 Poplar Ave  
Germantown, TN 38138  
(901) 755-5025

Online:

Woodwind and Brasswind  
[www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com)

## Band Room Rules

My rules are simple and easy to follow:

1. Be Prepared
2. Be Attentive
3. Be On Task
4. Be Courteous
5. Be Orderly

Aside from these the only other rule you need to be aware of is absolutely NO food, drink, or gum in the band room. We have a brand new band room and brand new equipment, and we want to keep it looking good for a long time.

We will be following the school-wide discipline plan, Life-Skills. Everyone will become very familiar with this system over the coming weeks, and I believe it will allow us to be more productive during class time. I should remind you that cell phones are an automatic office referral, so please leave them in your locker.

### Playing Tests:

Playing Tests happen many times over the course of each grading period. Some may be planned and students will have advance notice of these. Some may be surprise playing tests when I feel that they are warranted. This is to ensure that all students are practicing at home and to gauge progress over time. There is a possibility that I will give written tests. If and when these happen, they will be included in the grades for playing tests.

## Grading Rubric

20% Weekly Participation Grade  
30% Practice Logs  
50% Playing Tests (May also include some written tests)

### Weekly Participation:

Weekly Participation includes in-class playing and having all supplies, method books, and music. It is an important part of band to learn responsibility, and having all supplies, every class, is very important. I do NOT dock points for absences, excused or otherwise.

### Practice Logs:

Students are required to practice a minimum of 30 minutes per day, and turn in a log of that practice weekly, signed by his/her parents. I allow for one day without practice per week. I will keep copies of the practice log form in the classroom. Students can pick these up any time they are in the band room. If there are extenuating circumstances for not practicing in a given day, beyond the one day allowed, I will require also a signed note from home explaining these circumstances. **Make-up policy:** The purpose of practice logs is not to cause headaches with grades for band, but to impress upon everyone the importance of daily practice in instrumental music. Therefore, if, for any reason, a practice log is not turned in for a given week, the student may make up the grade by attending a local classical or jazz concert (by a professional or collegiate performing group) and write a one-page description of the event and what they enjoyed/didn't enjoy about the concert. If you need any suggestions for upcoming concerts, please contact me, and I can point you in the right direction. Make-up papers will be accepted at any time during the grading period of the missing grade.

# A Note From the Band Booster President

Welcome to all Bon Lin Band Booster Parents!

We are so excited about this new year and this brand new school. Our goal as a booster organization of course is to help build the band program and support our children. Music touches *everyone* at some level. If you listen to the radio chances are you are hearing a former band student. When you watch a half-time show you are watching 15 minutes that took months of work and practice. Studies have shown learning to play a musical instrument improves a child's ability to learn. Band provides so much more, like self-confidence, a good group of friends and the thrill of making something beautiful (eventually) from within. Middle school is where musicians are made. Fundamentals are taught so that your child can feel accomplished. We are very lucky to have Mr. Tucker as our new Band Director as he is very excited about teaching our children. We will be having at least two fund raisers this year to help buy music (music is crazy expensive), some more instruments, and help defray cost for contests. Donations such as reams of paper and of course musical instruments are always greatly appreciated. We will need everyone's help with the fundraisers, many hands make light work. The band booster board and I can't wait to meet and work with all of you. Thank you in advance!  
Here's to a great year.

Sincerely,  
Tracey Steward  
Band Booster President

## Performance Dress

Our concert dress will be as follows:

Black Shoes

Black Socks

Black Pants

Black Belt

Band Polo (included in band fees)

Part of giving a good performance is looking professional. Therefore, in order to receive full credit for a performance, you must be in full concert dress. If anyone has issues with obtaining these things, please contact me and we can talk privately.

## Band Fees

Band fees at Bon Lin are \$100. We will begin collecting once we get a bank account set up for the boosters. I will send a note home when it is time to send in fees. If, for financial reasons, you cannot pay the fee or would like to work out a schedule to pay gradually, contact me and we can speak privately. I would love to not have to have fees at all, but with little funding coming from the school board, fees are necessary. Included in our fees will be the band polo shirt, which all students will wear as part of their concert attire.

## Band Calendar

Here is the calendar for band this year. Please mark these dates in your calendar and let me know of any conflicts as soon as possible.

Winter Concert: Dec. 9, 2008 6:30 PM

All-West Auditions: Dec. 13, 2008

(Jackson, TN)

All-West Clinic: Jan. 29-31, 2009

(Canon Center)

Concert Festival (Festival Band only):

March 11-12, 2009

(during school)

Ridgeway MS

Solo and Ensemble: April 4, 2009

Cordova MS

Spring Concert: May 12, 2009 6:30 PM

In addition to these dates, I will begin auditioning for places in the Festival Band around the first of November. I will let you know as soon as I set the times for this. This group will rehearse after school, and I will set that rehearsal time as soon as I get an idea of the school schedule.

### Contact Info:

E-mail: [btucker@scsk12.org](mailto:btucker@scsk12.org)

Phone: 901-487-0675\*

\*When I get a direct number for the band room, I will inform all the parents.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby affirm that I have read and thoroughly understand the Bon Lin Middle School Band Handbook. I further affirm that I will abide by the rules, regulations and intent of said Handbook, and understand the penalties for not doing so. I have had all questions concerning the content of this Handbook answered and will do my best to live up to the intent of this contract.

Print Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I/We have read the Bon Lin Middle School Band Handbook and have discussed it with my/our child. I/We have had all questions concerning the content of this Handbook answered and I/we will do our best to encourage him/her to abide by the rules and regulations of the band as expressed in the Band Handbook.

Print Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I have been receiving e-mails from the band.

I have not been receiving e-mails from the band and my e-mail address is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 I have not been receiving e-mails and prefer to receive paper copies of e-mails sent to the parents. I understand that there may be a delay in receiving communications this way.

Please tear off this page and return to me signed by Friday August 22, 2008.