

BRADLEY BAND

HANDBOOK

2016-2017

Welcome to the Award Winning Bradley Band Program! *You, the Bradley Band Members*, are the most important part of one of the most successful instrumental music programs in Texas. This handbook outlines *your* band program and it should be a very important resource. Abiding by these rules allows you to fulfill an obligation to your school, to your fellow band members, to your family, and to yourself. Only when every member of the band puts forth a 100% effort can a band attain its goals in musical achievement and service to school and community.

You are embarking on lifetime of musical enjoyment. The more you invest of yourself, the more you will be rewarded. Together we can make this the best year ever.

Please take special notice of the sections dealing with attendance at functions, fees, grading system, rehearsals, daily procedures, uniforms and performances. We will also be handing out a calendar of events for the school year within the first week of school.

Parents and students are requested to read this entire handbook, discuss it, and keep it for reference for the school year.

We appreciate all your support and look forward to another exciting school year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Gurwitz
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Mr. Walker
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BRADLEY BAND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The Bradley Band consists of many performing groups. All daily classes represent either a section of a larger group or a complete performance group by itself. At this time there are in excess of 250 members in our program and those members are divided among the following groups.

BAND I (HONOR BAND) Prerequisite: Student Audition and Teacher Recommendation - This is the advanced band that consists of students who have attained a high degree of proficiency on their instruments. Members of this organization will perform at UIL competitions, contests, and concerts and should be prepared to spend time outside of the school day preparing for these performances. Every other year, the top band will participate in state honor band recordings and may require additional mandatory practices and performances to be competitive. There is a \$30.00 maintenance fee for students using school owned instruments.

Students' selection to this class will be greatly influenced by students' past record of personal discipline, dedication, sense of commitment, level of performance, academic standing, and their abilities to function as members of a team. **Attendance and participation are required at all concerts, solo and group contests and Region Band contest.** Contests are extremely important and provide competitive opportunities for students to receive constructive criticism from adjudicators outside the district. **This is an all-year class.** Students are expected to come once a week to either a before school or after school rehearsal. Students not complying with the class requirements or not maintaining performance standards or discipline levels commensurate with an honors class will be moved down to Symphonic Band at the earliest opportunity.

BAND II (SYMPHONIC BAND) Prerequisites for this band include beginning band and teacher recommendation-This course is designed for students who have completed one or more years of study on their band instruments. Members of this organization will perform at UIL competitions and concerts and will spend time outside of the school day preparing for these performances. There is a \$30.00 maintenance fee for students using school owned instruments.

Students are expected to be performing at grade level on their instruments. They should be striving to maintain excellent team-oriented discipline. Solo and group contests and Region Band competition provide opportunities for students to receive constructive criticism from adjudicators outside the district and are highly encouraged. Students may be required to attend extra practices as we get closer to concerts or competition. **This is an all-year class.** Opportunities will exist for students to be moved to Honor Band if their performance, academic standing, and discipline are on a level justifying advancement.

Band III (CONCERT BAND)

Prerequisites for this band include beginning band and teacher recommendation-This course is designed for students who have completed one or more years of study on their band instruments. Members of this organization will perform at concerts and will spend time outside of the school day preparing for these performances. There is a \$30.00 maintenance fee for students using school owned instruments.

Students are expected to be performing at grade level on their instruments. They should be striving to maintain excellent team-oriented discipline. Solo and group contests provide opportunities for students to receive constructive criticism from adjudicators outside the district and are highly encouraged. Students may be required to attend extra practices as we get closer to concerts or competition. This is an all-year class. Opportunities will exist for students to be moved to Symphonic Band if their performance, academic standing, and discipline are on a level justifying advancement.

JAZZ ENSEMBLES There are two jazz ensembles in the band program. All Jazz groups are advanced enriching courses that explore those styles of music not normally associated with concert bands. Students will trace the jazz influence on all forms of music, especially the music of the "Big Band Era". Special emphasis will be placed on scales, chords, blues progressions and other music theory as related to composition and improvisation. Students are placed in jazz ensembles in May of the previous school year. Adjustments in students' schedules will be made in summer band and at the beginning of school in the fall to assure proper instrumentation in both jazz ensembles.

Jazz Ensemble 1 Highly qualified and dedicated students will be accepted in the advanced jazz ensemble, and then only by audition. Students will learn to perform music from the "Big Bands", "pop and rock" from the fifties to today, and a variety of jazz styles with special emphasis on jazz, the one true American art form. This is an award-winning group that has won many honors over the years including many first place finishes in the *Alamo Tournament of Bands* and *Southwest Jazz Festival*, and also over 20 first place awards at the *Fiesta Jazz Festival*. The Jazz Ensemble also won "Best In Class" at the *Sound Waves Music Festival* in New Braunfels. We are very proud of this group and only the most outstanding team-oriented music students will be retained.

Jazz Ensemble 2 This is a Jazz enrichment class for those students who are not yet prepared for the advanced performance of Jazz Ensemble I, in one or more respects. There are no audition requirements for this class and every effort will be made to prepare each student for advancement to the next higher group. This is also a performing group that performs at concerts and festivals. For the last three or more years, Jazz 2 has placed 1st in their division at Fiesta Jazz Festival.

BEGINNING BAND (ALL GRADES) Beginning band consists of a group of students divided by instrument classification. Some classes will be grouped according to the type of instrument, i.e. low brass; other classes will be "like" instruments, i.e. clarinet class or French horn class, etc. All students in these classes have been or will be tested to determine which instrument they will play. Instruments will be assigned primarily according to the abilities of the student and then the needs of the band program. This course will cover basic fundamentals of tone production and note reading. This is an all-year class. These classes are combined at various times through the year to prepare for concerts. These mandatory rehearsals are held before school at 7:10 A.M. for two or three days before each concert. Students who have transportation problems with rehearsals or concerts should discuss the problem with their parents and band directors early so that a solution can be found. There are four mandatory concerts during the year, one in the fall, one during the holiday season, one in mid-winter and a spring concert in May. All concerts start at 6:30 P.M. Beginning band students will also have the opportunity to participate in Solo and Ensemble contest held at Bradley Middle School in the spring.

METHOD BOOKS

Following are a list of method books used at Bradley. Not all books are used by all teachers. You should check with your teacher to confirm the books required for your class. They all should be available at your neighborhood music store. You will be given ample notice, on the order of three or four weeks, to purchase a new book.

BEGINNING BAND

1. *Division of Beat Book 1A* - Southern Music Co.
2. *Essential Elements 2000* plus DVD Book 1
3. *A Fresh Approach to Mallets* and *A Fresh Approach to Snare* both by Mark Wessels (percussion only)

HONOR, SYMPHONIC, and CONCERT BANDS

1. *Scale Etudes* - Belwin Mills Pub.
2. *Division of Beat Book 2* - Southern Music Company
3. *Foundations for Superior Performance* - Neil A. Kjos Music Company

JAZZ BANDS

No Required Books

DAILY PROCEDURES

The following is the guideline to a successful rehearsal. The student who violates the rules is responsible for reducing the amount of time for rehearsal and consequently is hurting the entire band.

- Enter the rehearsal hall in a quiet, courteous, and orderly manner.
- Quickly get your instrument and music and take your seat.
- Students will be considered tardy if they are not in their seats, ready to rehearse one minute after the tardy bell.
- Students will check the whiteboard for the agenda and put their method books and music in the order of the agenda.
- Concert attention will be observed when the director steps on the podium and no further talking will be permitted.
- Students will not play instruments without permission.
- Students will not play other student's instruments. This includes percussion and district-owned instruments.
- Band members should have the following for every rehearsal: instrument with the necessary accessories, all music, and a pencil.
- All school books, instrument cases, and equipment not needed for the rehearsal should be left in the lockers, the instrument storage shelf or book shelves.
- Good posture is of great importance at all times.
- Music stands are for music only.
- When class is over, quietly remain in your seat until you are dismissed.
- **ONLY PERCUSSIONISTS ARE PERMITTED TO TOUCH PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS!**

If it becomes necessary to take your instrument to a repair shop, please remember to bring to class a note from home, your mouthpiece and music. There is a possibility that we can provide a temporary instrument.

The band directors will check the instrument lockers daily to make sure everyone has taken their instrument and music home to practice. It is, of course, impossible to practice at home if your instrument is sitting in the band hall overnight. **THERE SHOULD NEVER BE A CIRCUMSTANCE WHERE YOUR INSTRUMENT SPENDS THE NIGHT IN THE BAND HALL OR IN YOUR LOCKER!**

Students who do not bring their instruments to school will have points deducted from their participation grade and lose chair ranking. Phone calls to parents will be made and students will do a written assignment during class.

Students violating these simple rules on a regular basis risk demotion to the next lower band.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades are determined based on the following areas: completed practice records, playing/written tests, sectional and concert attendance, daily participation, maintenance of instrument, and having required supplies. Class participation and concert attendance will be most influential in the student's grade.

Practice Records

At the discretion of the director, Practice Records may be used as a tool to assess a student's practice habits. If they are required in a student's band class, they are due on every Monday. If a student is absent or if there is no school on Monday, the record is due the following day. Points may be deducted if a practice record is more than one day late without a valid excuse. Students will be using an online practice record at www.onlinepracticerecord.com/opr.

Chair Tests

As often as needed, students will be given performance tests on material presented in class. As a result of some of these tests, students will be placed in assigned chairs within their section. The purpose of these chair tests is to promote healthy competition within a section, to motivate students to practice, to improve performance skills, and to allow a student to see how he or she is doing compared to others. Note that a student may be moved down in the section at any time if he or she misbehaves or is not prepared for class. As long as a student participates in the playing tests and is prepared for class, the chair ranking does not affect his or her grade. Beginning students could have chair tests one or more times a week and 7th and 8th grade students will have them less frequently.

Sectionals/Early Rehearsals

Students in Honor band and Symphonic band will be required to attend a sectional once or more times a week. A sectional is a small group of band students taught outside of the school day by a band director or private instructor. During this time, specific issues important to that particular instrument will be addressed. Sectionals are vital since this is the time that students can receive more individual help on their instruments. Beginning Band students will also be asked to meet for two or three rehearsals before their concerts. Dates and times will be given in advance.

Band concerts/Performances

Since daily practice ultimately leads to performance, it is essential that students attend all band performances. Band concerts will be a very large portion of the students' grade. Students should arrive at the designated time and place for performances with the correct uniform, and should be

picked up in a timely manner. All students are required to help with set up and tear down after the concert as part of their grades. Most concerts will begin at either 6:00 or 6:30 p.m. and the students will be told in advance what time to be at the school to warm up and set up. If a student has problems getting to or from a performance, please let the band directors know as soon as possible, so that transportation can be arranged for that child. Since there is no way to make up a live performance, please make every effort to let the band directors know in advance if a student will be absent for a performance.

The following absences are considered excused and **must be accompanied by a note or e-mail to one of the band directors:**

1. Student illness when accompanied by a doctor's note
2. Excused absence given by the attendance office.
3. Death in the family or unforeseen circumstances.

Every student in a band is important and the band is greatly diminished when any one student is not in attendance!

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Since performance is a major objective of any band, concert etiquette must be learned and practiced.

1. **Everyone should remain seated during the performance of each selection.** Anyone that must leave during a concert, should quietly exit between musical selections.
2. **There should be no talking during another group's performance and cell phones should be silenced and put away.** Every effort must be made to avoid distractions.
3. **At the end of each selection, the audience should applaud politely regardless of your impression of the performing group.** Shouting or whistling is not acceptable. Hopefully, all students will appreciate the opportunity to hear other groups perform. Should there be a problem with any student during a concert, that person may be asked to leave and may not be allowed to perform on the next concert. Remember that you must set an example of personal discipline. All students should be in attendance until the end of the performance for clean up.

DISCIPLINE

The following is the Bradley Middle School Band Discipline Step Plan. This step plan is also in accordance with the Bradley Middle School Discipline Plan.

1st offense: Student will be redirected

2nd offense: Conference with a band director and Parent Contact

3rd offense: Parent contact and Detention

4th offense: Parent contact and a Counseling office referral

5th offense: Office referral

CONFLICTS IN BAND CLASS

If a student has a conflict in band class, we highly encourage the student to speak directly to his/her band director as soon as possible. Learning how to resolve conflicts is a valuable life lesson and builds responsibility and character. It is not usually appropriate for students to talk to their directors about personal issues during class time; however, a student should approach his/her band director immediately after class, before school, after school, or between classes to schedule a conference. The following situations are examples of conflicts that must be reported directly to his/her director:

1. Any scheduling conflict with before or after school rehearsals, including tutoring, athletics, or other activities
2. Any situation in which a student is harassing another
3. If a student is feeling unusually unhappy about the classroom environment
4. If a student is unable to practice at home for any reason for a week or more
5. If a student is unable to rent or purchase an instrument, uniform, or any other required equipment
6. Any other extenuating circumstance e.g. an illness, unusual situation in the family

Mrs. Gurwitz's students should speak directly with Mrs. Gurwitz, and Mr. Walker's students should speak directly with Mr. Walker.

We are here to assist you in any way that we can. If we cannot resolve your conflict in the classroom, we will make sure that you get help from other sources. We are a band family, and we care about our students!

EARLY ENTRY BY MUSIC STUDENTS

There will be occasions when band students must gain early admittance to the band hall. On mornings when there is no early rehearsal, band students will be admitted to the building and they should proceed directly to the band hall to deposit their instrument. On early rehearsal days the students involved will be admitted starting at **7:10 AM** or the time designated by their director. The normal entrance for early practice will be the side door next to the band hall. There may be times, however, when the director will deem it necessary to admit students by some other entrance. The band directors will be responsible for these students and will ensure that they do not "roam" the halls and that they are where they are supposed to be. If there is an early rehearsal going on in the band hall, students will not be admitted into the band hall until **7:50 AM** so as to not disturb the students rehearsing.

BAND OFFICE

Students will not be allowed entrance to the band office without permission from one of the band directors, and students must ask the director's permission before using the phone. **ONLY TRAINED STUDENT AIDS OR TEACHERS MAY USE THE COPY MACHINE. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS!!!** Students who have business in the office should first knock and ask permission

to enter. Never enter the office without permission when a director is not present. No student will enter the office area if a director is meeting with a parent, administrator or another teacher.

TUTORING

If a student has a tutoring conflict with early rehearsal, the student will be released at 7:35 a.m. for the 7:40 a.m. tutoring session. All students attending morning tutoring will still attend part of the 7:15 a.m. early rehearsal, in order to receive a grade of 100. Students' grades will not be penalized for attending academic tutoring. However, students attending academic tutoring must make every effort to attend at least part of an assigned band rehearsal. Students' released from rehearsal will require a pass or note from the teacher or parent initiating the tutoring session.

BAND OFFICERS AND SECTION LEADERS

Band officers or section leaders will be responsible for taking care of music and assisting with minor problems associated with band rehearsals. Seeing that each person has the correct part shall be the responsibility of the first chair player in the section. Only band officers, librarians, and students given express permission will operate the copy machine and pull music. The section leader's duties will include:

1. Helping others in their section.
2. Reminding section members of section rehearsals.
3. Assisting the director during rehearsals.

PERMISSION FORMS

The students will be making trips to concert and contest sites during the school year. A permission form with pertinent information will be sent home several days before the event. A parent or guardian signature on this form is required for the student to leave the school grounds. Permission forms are very important. They keep parents informed and they give permission to travel to and from important band engagements. Please return all permission forms in a timely manner.

BAND CONTESTS

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST

Each year the North East Independent School District sponsors middle school solo and ensemble contests. All band students will have their solo and ensemble contest in March. These contests are open to all eligible band students. It is the hope of the Bradley directors that all band students will participate in these contests. Students entering the solo and ensemble contest must pay an entry fee for participation (usually \$7.00 per person per event). Those playing solos must have a piano accompanist unless he/she is a percussionist. The band directors will supply names of piano accompanists if needed and will help students select music for this contest.

REGION BAND

Region 12 sponsors a program to recognize the outstanding middle school band seventh and eighth grade students from throughout our region. Eligible members of the honor band are selected based on an audition of scales and prepared music. Those students selected for the band will participate in a clinic and concert under the leadership of a well known conductor. It is an extreme honor to be selected to this elite group, and Bradley Middle School has always been well represented. **This is a required event for Bradley Honor Band Members and highly suggested for Symphonic band Members. These students will be attending morning or afternoon sectionals in preparation for this event.** Students will be screened to find their level of performance on the required material prior to the auditions.

UIL CONCERT BAND CONTEST

The UIL Concert Band Contest is a very important event each year and is equivalent to a "STAAR™ test" for band. The Bradley Bands will be involved in several associated events:

1. A show and tell practice concert at Bradley.
2. Before and after school rehearsals and UIL music pass-offs.
3. A tape clinic at one of the local schools.
4. UIL contest.

Some of the events will take place during school hours and some will occur in the evening or on the weekend. The directors hope for great support from band students and parents during the contest period.

STATE HONOR BAND and MIDWEST COMPETITION

Every other school year, Honor Band students will have the opportunity to record for state recognition. During the 2012-2013 school year, the Bradley Honor Band finished first in Region 12 and fourth in Area E. In order to achieve recognition by the state, the Bradley Honor Band will have extra mandatory rehearsals and performances. Every year, Honor Band students will record for the Midwest Competition. Students will also have to be academically eligible to participate. Please contact Mrs. Gurwitz if you have any concerns or questions about State honor band or Midwest recordings and performances.

SOUNDWAVES/SCHLITTERBAHN CONTEST

In May, the Honor band and Jazz 1 will attend the Soundwaves festival in New Braunfels, Texas. To attend the contest and Schlitterbahn waterpark, there will be a fee to be determined, which can be paid in one or two installments. In order to be eligible to attend the Soundwaves Festival, students must have attended UIL band contest and all required performances, have all passing grades, and have consistently good behavior in class. If the band directors feel that a student does not meet the above requirements, a student will not be allowed to attend the trip. After the Bradley band has paid the contest entrance fee (which is based on the number of students attending), refunds to students will not be available. Attendance at Soundwaves festival is not

mandatory although the majority of students in these groups do attend. For the last two years, the Bradley Bands have won their divisions and received all 1's for their performances. Two years ago, the Bradley Honor Band won the "Best in Class" award.

JAZZ CONCERTS AND CONTESTS

All Jazz band members must participate in all concerts and contests because each member is vital to our overall sound. All students and families should start planning now to be present for those dates for Fiesta Jazz Festival, and the Hill Country Jazz Festival. The bands also participate in performing fundraisers at Churchill and Macarthur High Schools, and our elementary schools.

Bradley Middle School has been the host since inception of the **NEISD Jazz Festival**. This event is held at an area mall in May and is an all day affair for our groups. Our groups perform at mid-day and groups from other middle school and high schools fill out the day. Our students, parents, and directors oversee and help the other bands get on and off the stage area.

We will give as much notice as possible for other events. On very short notice performances, students will check with their parents and the band will vote whether or not to accept the engagement. Parental support is the backbone of our jazz program, and parents will be called on to volunteer to chaperone, provide transportation for many of our performances, and transport equipment.

BRADLEY SUMMER BAND CAMP

Three weeks before the first day of school and lasting for 2 weeks, all performing concert bands, jazz bands, and all beginners are eligible to participate in the summer band program. Mrs. Gurwitz and Mr. Walker share the duties for full band rehearsals and jazz ensembles. Section rehearsals will be taught by some of the best musicians in Texas. Students should plan to attend for the full two weeks to receive the best benefit from summer band. If previous plans conflict with summer band dates, partial attendance is strongly encouraged. This two week session marks the first regular full band rehearsal for the previous year's beginners. All students participate in rehearsals and sectionals. **Students who will be learning a second instrument for jazz band are highly encouraged to attend Bradley summer band camp from 8-9 a.m., since this is the time that the students learn the basics of the second instrument and are assigned any available school owned instruments.** There will be a \$100 tuition fee for summer band camp to help cover the cost of the clinicians.

INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

Each band member will be expected to keep his or her instrument in excellent condition. Grades will be given on periodic inspections. All cases will have the students name clearly marked on both sides and ends.

WOODWINDS

1. Keep instrument free of dust. All woodwind players should have swabs and saxophonists should have pad savers.
2. Check pads weekly for worn or torn skins.
3. Keys should be oiled and wooden instruments should be bore oiled at least twice a year. *Never perform either operation without instructions from one of the directors.*
4. Clarinet and Saxophone Mouthpieces should be cleaned daily with a mouthpiece brush. Flute head joints should be swabbed out daily after practice.
5. Double reed players should have 2 playable reeds at all times. Clarinets and saxes should have 6 playable reeds. Playable means no chips or cracks and looks new. We recommend #3 Vandoren (blue box), but you may follow the advice of your private teacher.
6. Cases should be clean and clearly display your name and class on masking tape on the end of the case facing into the band hall from your slot or the case should have a name tag on the handle.

BRASS

1. Instrument should be washed weekly, inside and out. *Do not perform this task without instructions from your director.*
2. Mouth pieces should be cleaned daily.
3. Tuning slides should be greased after the weekly wash.
4. Trombone slides should be lubricated with slide cream (e.g. Trombotine) as necessary. Absolutely no slide oil is to be used!!
5. Valves should be oiled as necessary.
6. Cases should be clean and clearly display your name and class on masking tape on the end of the case facing into the band hall from your slot or the case should have a name tag on the handle.

PERCUSSION

1. All 7th and 8th grade players should have a pair of snare sticks and a mallet bag with all required mallets.
2. All players are responsible for keeping all equipment clean and in good working order.
3. Beginning percussion should have a percussion kit that includes a drum pad, sticks, a bell kit and mallets.

All instruments and instrument supplies can be purchased at High School Music Service, Hillje Music, Music and Arts, or other local music instrument stores.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

There is a maintenance fee of \$30.00 per year for the use of school instruments. The fee may be paid in \$15.00 installments at the beginning of each semester. Instruments will be supplied to students to give the band a well-balanced instrumentation. It is the duty of each student playing a school instrument to take the best possible care of it. Those persons using school equipment must fill out a usage agreement form, have it signed by the parent, and return it to the director.

School owned instruments include: Baritone, tuba, tenor and bari saxophones, double reeds, and French horns. All other instruments must be rented or purchased by the parent.

Students using school instruments are responsible for any damage brought about through carelessness. It will be the student's responsibility to have the instrument repaired at an approved music store. Bradley M.S. band will not cover the cost of repairs.

INSTRUMENT INSURANCE

You are strongly urged to insure your personal instrument. You might check with your insurance representative about whether your home owner's policy covers personal or school instruments. The value that you should insure the instrument should be the replacement cost. Check with your director for the value of a district owned instrument.

Whether or not your instrument is personally owned or district owned, always make sure that you have a written record at home of the make, model and serial number. This information will be required if something should happen to the instrument.

UNIFORMS

All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band students will purchase a green Bradley band polo. (Spirit shirts will also be available for purchase.) The green band polo will be tucked into blue jeans and will be the uniform for the beginners at all concerts. The 7th and 8th graders will also wear the green polo and jeans at less formal concerts.

The Bradley Band will supply a formal uniform for certain concerts and UIL events for Concert, Symphonic, and Honor Band students. The boy's uniform includes tuxedo-style black slacks, white tuxedo shirt, and an emerald green cummerbund and bow tie. Girls will wear a black formal dress. Students will supply black dress shoes and boys will need black socks.

A. Each 7th and 8th grade advanced band student will pay a one-time uniform fee of \$25.00. This fee includes rental and dry cleaning. Students will be measured during Bradley summer band camp and at the beginning of the school year, and the fee should be paid at that time.

B. Students will have the opportunity during the school year to swap their uniforms for one that is a better fit.

C. Each student must return the formal uniform to the music department at the end of the school year on a specified date.

MUSIC

Music and folders/binders, will be provided free to band students. The folder should last a semester, the binder a full year. If a replacement is required before the end of the semester, a replacement may be purchased for a fifty cent fee. All students are responsible for all music in their folders/binders. Folders/binders should be kept in the assigned slot or locker during the day.

If sharing music with others, it will be all students' responsibility to make arrangements to have their music at school if they are going to be absent. This is especially true for jazz band members where each part is so important. Sixth grade students should keep their method books and sheet music in binders, much the same way as in other classes.

It is very important that all music is taken care of and preserved for use in future years. Music lost or destroyed must be paid for at the rate of fifty cents per part. Students will be charged replacement costs for school-owned method books that are lost or damaged. Music that is not turned in one day after it is taken up is considered lost and a replacement fee will be due.

Music left out after rehearsal will be picked up and the student will have consequences at the discretion of the director, such as to move down one chair and/or lose points on the class participation grade.

Music may be marked in pencil or highlighter only and music must never be folded. Try to get in the habit of numbering all measures of music.

All method books, binders, and folders must be clearly marked, in pen, with your name, instrument, and class.

PRIVATE LESSONS

The directors will always strive to give as much individual attention to each student as possible, but due to time constraints and the size of a band program, the directors may not reach each individual as often as needed. Students in NEISD bands are fortunate to be part of a unique and wonderful private lesson program that has become part of the school day. Students may sign up for private lessons during their band class or outside the school day, whichever is most convenient for that student. Bradley has a team of wonderful private teachers who visit our campus one or more days per week. They are interviewed and approved at the district level and are paid directly by the parents. Those students signing up for lessons will be contacted by a private teacher to make scheduling and payment arrangements. The success of every outstanding band program depends on the quality of the players as well as the determination of the band students to give that extra effort. Top school band programs across the state typically have large numbers of the students studying privately. Excellent private teachers take the student to the next level, many times teaching finer points that will never be covered in a class setting. Contact your director for help locating a private teacher. **The Bradley M.S. Band highly recommends that all students take private lessons from qualified teachers.**

BAND PARENT VOLUNTEER FORM (please return to Mrs. Gurwitz)

PARENTAL HELP

There are many times during the year when the band will need the support and help of parent volunteers. We will have a range of needs in many different areas. Parental help will be needed as chaperones, office help, piano accompanists, transportation, etc.

I am interested in helping the band program in the following ways:

- _____ chaperone
- _____ typing and office work
- _____ publicity
- _____ piano accompanist at solo contest
- _____ programs - printing and designing
- _____ phone
- _____ hospitality-planning receptions, parties, etc.
- _____ concert equipment and set-up
- _____ band newsletter (bi-monthly)
- _____ baked goods (receptions, etc.)
- _____ computer (help enter data on computer in band office)
- _____ help put together recruiting video of school year
- _____ fund raising help
- _____ transportation
- _____ uniforms (help with repair, issuing, replacement, etc.)
- _____ other _____

STUDENT NAME _____

PARENT NAME _____

HOME PHONE _____

WORK PHONE _____

I have read the Bradley Band Handbook and agree to abide by the rules and policies. I understand that band is a full year elective and I have made a commitment to remain in the Bradley Band for the duration of the 2016-17 school year. (Return this page to Mrs. Gurwitz or Mr. Walker for a grade of 100!)

Student Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name (Printed): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____