Byron Middle School

Music Department

Handbook

2023-2024



Directors

Amy Harn, Vocal

Matt Maurizio, Instrumental

# Byron Middle School

850 N. Colfax Rd.

Byron, IL 61010

815-234-5491



August 2023

Dear Music Students and Parents………………

We want to welcome you to the Byron Music Department. We are honored to be able to be directing the performing groups in the Byron Middle School. Our goal is to help musicians improve their vocal and instrumental skills, expand musical understanding and offer students opportunities to grow personally and musically through music performance. Participating in the music classes offered is a significant part of our school’s curriculum.

It is the goal for each music student to:

* Discover, appreciate and value their talents, talents of others, and beauty of all types of music.
* Improve skills in using his/her instrument/voice, learn music theory and gain general musical knowledge.
* Continually improve upon past performances.
* Experience self-fulfillment by communicating to others through music.
* Experience music that will bring a lifetime of enjoyment.

We ask that all students give their best effort. With all of us working together, we will have a positive, inspiring, and rewarding year.

Sincerely,

Amy Harn, 6-8 Choir Director

Matt Maurizio, 6-8 Band Director

**BYRON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**BAND AND CHORUS HANDBOOK**

**2023-2024**

CHOIR

The Byron Middle School Choir is a curricular activity for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. Students need not be experienced singers. Each student will be taught vocal skills to improve the present use of their voice. In addition, musical concepts are presented through careful selection of quality choral literature. 7th and 8th grade students may participate in both band and choir on alternating days.

BAND

The Byron Middle School Band is a curricular activity for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. Band students receive weekly small group instruction on their specific instruments. Daily large group rehearsals will focus on ensemble performance as well as various musical styles and concepts. 7th and 8th grade students may participate in both band and choir on alternating days.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

The performing groups will each have **required** **performances** during the school year. Students in BMS band and choir may audition for the ILMEA District Band and Choir Festival each fall. Second semester, all 7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to prepare a solo or ensemble for the Rt. 72 Solo and Ensemble Contest. All 6th grade band students will prepare and perform solos for the Band Holiday Solos each December.

CONCERT DRESS

The way a performing group looks is as important as how it sounds. An audience gets an immediate impression about the attitude, effort and quality of the organization before they sing or play a note. The musicians at Byron Middle School each have a uniform identifying them as part of the group in which they perform.

**The music students at BMS will need to obtain or purchase black dress pants, black dress shoes, and black socks**. The music department will provide a polo shirt for concert wear only. This shirt may be purchased for a cost of $22 or borrowed. (If there is a financial hardship, you may borrow black dress pants and black shoes held in an inventory by the music department.)

POLICIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

1. ***Attendance at Performances:***

Attendance at all performances is required. Participation in band and chorus is very much a team effort, and it is mandatory that all musicians perform in all concerts. **In addition, students will not be allowed to leave the performance early.** If there is a viable reason for absence (personal illness, death in the family, etc.), parents should call, send a note, or email prior to the performance in order for the absence to be excused. If this is not possible, a phone call, or note, the next day will be necessary. Students with an unexcused absence will receive an “F” as their concert grade. Students with an excused absence will be required to complete an alternate assignment in correlation with Power Standard #1 (see next page). Since there are so many students in the performing ensembles, transportation difficulties will not qualify as an excused absence. It is important for students to learn to be responsible. Please avoid scheduling activities that conflict with the music calendar. (See last page).

1. ***Conduct:***

Each student is expected to show respect for self, teacher, fellow students and chaperones at all times. This includes listening quietly to instructions and carrying out those instructions in a responsible manner, whether in the classroom, during a concert, or on a field trip. Students are also expected to properly care for their music, folders, instruments, and other equipment. Loss or flagrant destruction of school property will result in disciplinary action. Good conduct is the responsibility of each student.

1. ***Byron Music Boosters:***

Supportive chorus and band parents are an important ingredient in the success of our program. The Byron Music Boosters have provided funding for music trips, summer music camp scholarship, and registration fees for festivals. Volunteer parents are needed to assist with working music fundraisers, making phone calls, and chaperoning. Your time and talents are needed. Contact any director to assist with this worthwhile cause. The Music Parents meet monthly in the Byron High School Music Room.

POWER STANDARDS

Listed below are the Byron CUSD #226 Music Power Standards for all of the performance-based classes, including bands and choirs.

**Power Standard #1:** The learner will be able to perform in a public setting with expression and accuracy, alone and with others, a varied repertoire representing diverse genres, culture and styles in music literature.

**Power Standard #2:** The learner will be able to create music using improvisational and compositional techniques in small and large ensembles.

**Power Standard #3:** The learner will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the historic and cultural context of the performance literature.

**Power Standard #4:** The learner will be able to understand the system, vocabulary, theory, and the conventions necessary to read and notate music.

**Power Standard #5:** The learner will be able to analyze and evaluate the quality and effectiveness of their own and others’ performances by applying specific criteria.

**Power Standard #6:** The learner will be able to demonstrate appropriate rehearsal, ensemble, and audience skills.

GRADES

A grade for chorus and band is given at the end of each semester. The grade is based on skills assessed in rehearsals, performance at required concerts, and written work done in class. Grades for band students will also include small group lesson grades. Since performance and skills are the major component of the musical experience, grades will be lowered for unexcused absences.

|  |
| --- |
| CLASSROOM SKILLS |

Certain skills will be expected of students each and every day in class. These will be graded by the teacher on a weekly basis, with a definitive grade at the end of each semester. These skills are outlined below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ensemble Skills** | **Rehearsal Skills** | **Audience Skills** |
| * Intonation
* Balance
* Blend
 | * Body Posture
* Breathing
* Tone
* Technique
* Class Supplies
 | * Listen without disrupting
* Respond appropriately
* Hands to self
* Respect classroom
* Actively observe
 |

GRADING PRACTICES

Students’ grades can be placed into two categories:

Formative assessment: Designed to provide direction for improvement during the course of a learning sequence

 -Accounts for **20%** of a student’s grade

 -Examples: Worksheets of the Week (WOWs), skills grades, sight singing

Summative assessment: Designed to make a judgment about what a student knows and is able to do at the end of a learning sequence

 -Accounts for **80%** of a student’s grade

-Examples: Quarterly WOW assessments, quarterly skills grades, performances, band lessons

**BMS BAND**

**PERFORMANCE DATES 2023-2024**

Please put these dates on your calendar so that conflicts can be avoided.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (815) 234-5491 X 2003

**\*Dates and times may be subject to change\***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Time** | **Event** | **Participants** | **Status** |
| Tuesday, October 3 | N/A | ILMEA Audition Video Submission Deadline | 7th, 8th grade band students | Optional |
| Wednesday, October 4 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. | 8th Gr./HS Marching Band Rehearsal @ HS Stadium | 8th grade band students | **Required** |
| Friday, October 6 | About 7:15 p.m. | 8th Gr./HS Marching Band **Performance**  | 8th grade band students | **Required** |
| Friday, November 10 | 8:15 a.m. | Byron Middle School Veterans Day Program | 8th grade band students | **Required** |
| Saturday,November 18 | All day | ILMEA Music FestivalDeKalb High School | Selected 7th, 8th band students | Optional |
| Wednesday, December 6 | 6th/Jazz – 6:30 pm7th/8th – 7:30 p.m. | **BAND** Holiday ConcertBMS Theater | 6th, 7th, 8th grade band students | **Required** |
| December 13-21 | 6th Grade Band class time | 6th Grade Holiday SolosBMS Band Room | All 6th grade band students | **Required** |
| Saturday,February 3 | All day | Rt.72 Solo/EnsembleContest @ TBA | 7th, 8th grade band students | Optional |
| Wednesday,February 14 | 6th/7th – 6:30 p.m.8th/HS – 7:30 p.m. | **BAND** Pops ConcertBMS Theater | 6th, 7th, 8th grade band students | **Required** |
| March/April | 2 weeks | Music Department Fundraiser | All Students | Encouraged |
| Wednesday,April 10 | Varies for each group | Rt.72 Organizational Festival – BMS Theater | 7th, 8th grade band students | **Required** |
| Saturday,April 20 | 7:30 p.m. | Jazz Band Cabaret NightBMS Theater | MS Jazz Band students | **Required - Jazz**  |
| Tuesday, April 30 | 6th/Jazz – 6:30 pm7th/8th – 7:30 p.m. | **BAND** Spring ConcertBMS Theater | 6th, 7th, 8th grade bands | **Required**  |
| Friday, May 17 | All day | 8th Grade Band/Choir Six Flags Great America | 8th grade band students | FUN!!!! |

**Please check my website frequently for classroom updates and documents:**

www.byronmiddleschoolband.weebly.com

Please sign up for text message reminders for your student’s group. Download the SportsYou app or visit sportsyou.com and enter the following code:

**6th grade**: X78K-V73N

**7th grade**: AHVT-UEVL

**8th grade**: GGRF-EV4W

**Jazz Band**: 9BP7-AKV9

**BMS CHOIR**

**PERFORMANCE DATES 2023-2024**

Please put these dates on your calendar so that conflicts can be avoided.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (815) 234-5491 X 2003

**\*Dates and times may be subject to change\***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Time** | **Event** | **Participants** | **Status** |
| Wednesday, Oct 4 | 6:30 PM | **CHOIR** Fall Concert  BMS Theater  | 6th, 7th, 8th grade choirs   | **Required**  |
| Tuesday, Oct 3  | TBA  | ILMEA Auditions-virtual  | 6th, 7th, 8th grade  | optional  |
| Saturday, November 18  | All day  | ILMEA Music Festival DeKalb High School  | Selected 6th, 7th,  8th grade  | Optional  |
| Monday, December 11 | 6:30 PM | **CHOIR** Holiday Concert BMS Theater  | 6th, 7th, 8th grade  | **Required**  |
| Saturday, February 3 | TBA  | Rt.72 Solo/Ensemble Contest @ TBA  | 6th, 7th, 8th grade  | Optional  |
| Wednesday, April 10 | Varies for each group  | Rt.72 Organizational Festival – BMS   | 7th,  8th  grade   | **Required**  |
| Tuesday,  May 14 | 7:00 PM  | **CHOIR** Spring Concert BMS Theater  | 6th, 7th, 8th grade choirs  | **Required**  |
| Friday,  May 17 | All day  | 8th Grade Band/Choir Trip Six Flags Great America  | 8th grade   | FUN!!!!  |

Please sign up for text message reminders for your student’s group. Download the SportsYou app or visit sportsyou.com and enter the following code:

**6th grade**: FHB5-95ZC

**7th grade**: YSX2-SZDY

**8th grade**: 8QYQ-HXJ4

**Show Choir**: 3ABP-DLUT

We have read and agree to abide by the Byron Middle School Music Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year. This year’s concert dates are on our calendar.

**\*Performance dates and times may be subject to change\***

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **6 7 8** **Band** **Choir**

Student printed name Grade – Circle One Class – Please Circle

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Student signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian printed name Parent/Guardian **email** address

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Parent/Guardian signature Additional Parent/Guardian **email** address

\*Directors will use email as a means for

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** frequent updates about classroom activities and

Parent phone number group performances\*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to be a parent volunteer for various events during the year (i.e. Organizational Contest chaperone, photographer at concerts, fundraiser help, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to sit with my child’s ensemble during the concert to help supervise behavior.

**Detach this page, sign, and return by Friday, August 25th.**