



# Band Notes - Week of February 9

2025-2026 School Year - Belton MS Band

## Welcome!

General information that applies to all students and parents can be found towards the **top** of every newsletter, while information specific to your child's ensemble can be found in that particular section by **scrolling all the way down**.

Feel free to contact a director if you have any questions and our contact information is at the bottom of this newsletter. Thanks for reading!

## General Information for All



**Instrument Placement Night 2026 · Thursday, Feb 5 📅**

Shared album · Tap to view!

📷 [photos.app.goo.gl/](https://photos.app.goo.gl/)

## List of Band Events

[Please click here to see all of the Band Events](#) for this new school year in order to plan your family's activities. Remember, performances are a required part of our curriculum, so please contact a director ASAP for any conflicts.

## CHAPERONES NEEDED!

### Parent Chaperone Sign-Up

Click on this link to sign up to become a district volunteer and complete the background check. Even if you have done this before, this process must be repeated every school year: [Parent Chaperone Sign-Up](#). Please sign up for volunteer opportunities on your [CutTime MagicLink](#).

### Check Out Our Socials!

We want to interact with you on social media, so be sure to **Like, Follow, and Subscribe** on all of the following platforms you use:

- [YouTube Channel](#)
- [Parent Square Group](#)
- [Facebook Page](#)
- [Instagram Account](#)
- [Band Website](#)
- [Google Photos Album](#)
- [SoundCloud Channel](#)
- [Smore Newsletters](#)



THE TEACHER PROVIDES:



THE STUDENT PRODUCES:



### Teacher & Student Shared Responsibilities

In the Belton MS Band, we form a partnership between teacher and student where *both* share responsibility in their musical development. Our team of teachers include middle school directors, private lesson instructors, high school directors, and even hired clinicians, masterclass teachers, and adjudicators. We also strive to communicate and produce strong partnerships with parents since their support is vital in their student's growth.

To that end, we as the teaching team provide Introduction, Comprehension, and Demonstration to students for their instruction. However, each student has a responsibility as well to facilitate Repetition in the form of practicing daily for at least 25 minutes, 5 days per week.

This means that **instruments go home everyday** to practice the concepts, patterns, and music that we go over daily in class. This leads to student Mastery of their music and ultimately of their

instrument. Students have homework everyday in Band as they practice their instrument in preparation for performances and to continue their musical growth. Reach out to a director if you would like more information on how to better help and support the musical growth of your student.

## Instruments Come Home Daily!

Students should take their instruments home daily and we expect them to practice 5 days a week for at least 25 minutes. Students may also practice before school in the Band Hall starting at 7:30am every school day.

Weekly XP Chart

	DAYS PRACTICED	-	DAYS NOT PRACTICED	=	EXPERIENCE POINTS (XP)
PERF	7	-	0	=	+7 (XP)
BEST	6	-	1	=	+5 (XP)
BETTER	5	-	2	=	+3 (XP)
GOOD	4	-	3	=	+1 (XP)
	3	-	4	=	-1 (XP)
	2	-	5	=	-3 (XP)
	1	-	6	=	-5 (XP)
	0	-	7	=	-7 (XP)

Parents, we implore you to help set up a consistent practice routine at home for your student. **Students will not improve their musical skills on their instrument without practice outside of regular class time.** The directors, we will teach your student *what* and *how* to practice, but we need your help in establishing *when* and *how much* they practice. The more they practice, the better they will get faster. Please review the How To Practice and Weekly XP Chart attachment below:



How to Practice & Weekly XP Chart.pdf

Download

2.1 MB



## Band Calendar

[Click here to see the Calendar page of our website](#) to find **all** of the current events, including special rehearsals, contests, and performances for the whole school year. We provide this so you can plan your family's activities. Remember, performances are a required part of our curriculum, so please contact a director ASAP for any conflicts. Be sure to view the [List of Band Events](#) that can be found clicking on the link.

## Beginner's Ensemble

### Beginner Solo Contest - Saturday, February 21

Beginners will have their next performance on Saturday, February 21 anytime from 9am-12pm at BMS. Students will prepare a solo to be performed one-on-one for a judge who is a professional

musician on their instrument who will give them comments, critique, and a rating. Students must be academically eligible to attend this event. If they are not, they will perform their solo for a director earlier in the week at school. These students will be told privately with individual parent notification.



Students will need to arrive 10 minutes before their performance time in order to warm-up before proceeding to their room to perform. After performing in their time slot for around 5 minutes, students are then free to leave and can look up their rating afterwards on a shared Google Doc.

**Our schedule is now open for parents to sign up their student for a time.** Please use the appropriate link below:

- Winds (woodwinds & brass): <https://bit.ly/beginnersolo>
- Percussion: <https://bit.ly/percussionsolocontest>

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## Symphonic Band



### Volunteers Needed for Beginner Solo Contest

We are looking for Symphonic Band students and parents to help run our Beginner Solo Contest on Saturday, February 21 at BMS. Volunteers will help judges, monitor rooms, run forms to the directors, and keep the performance times on schedule. This is a great opportunity for those students who need service hours

through AVID and/or NJHS. Sign ups are in 2-hour time slots and please use this form to sign up: <https://bit.ly/solocontesthelper>. Thanks in advance!

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### Sectionals This Week

Sectionals will occur until Thursday, March 5 one day after school per week from 4:00-5:00pm. **All students in Symphonic Band are required to attend** their sectional once per week for a weekly grade in preparation for our UIL Concert & Sightreading Evaluation in early March. Students should be picked up in the parent drop-off loop by the Cafeteria by 5pm.



#### Mondays

- **Percussion** in Band Hall with Smith

#### Tuesdays

- **Brass** (trumpets, horns, trombones, euphoniums, & tubas) in Ensemble Room with Trahan

## Wednesdays

- **None**

## Thursdays

- **Woodwinds** (flutes, clarinets & bass clarinet, & all saxophones) in Ensemble Room with Trahan

Students are expected to "Be Punctual" and arrive seated with all materials and ready to rehearse at 4pm sharp or their grade will be affected. Students 1-5 minutes late will have their sectional grade reduced to an 85. Students who are late 5-15 minutes will have their grade reduced to a 70. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late will receive a 50.

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### Event Information

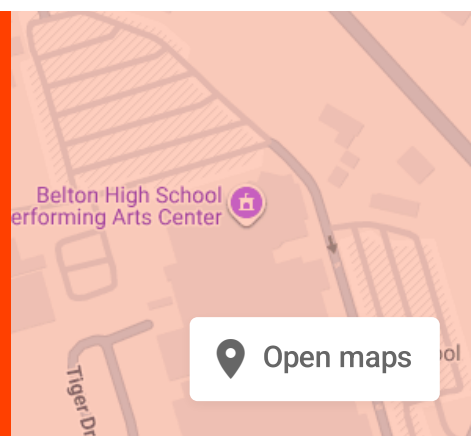
#### **Pre-UIL Benchmark Concert & Evaluation**

#### When?

**Thursday, Feb 19, 2026, 06:00 PM**

#### Where?

**Belton High School Performing Arts Center, Lake Road,  
Belton, TX, USA**



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## **Wind Ensemble**



### **Volunteers Needed for Beginner Solo Contest**

We are looking for Wind Ensemble students and parents to help run our Beginner Solo Contest on Saturday, February 21 at BMS. Volunteers will help judges, monitor rooms, run forms to the directors, and keep the performance times on schedule. This is a great opportunity for those students who need service hours

through AVID and/or NJHS. Sign ups are in 2-hour time slots and please use this form to sign up: <https://bit.ly/solocontesthelper>. Thanks in advance!

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## **Sectionals This Week**

Sectionals will occur until Thursday, March 5 one day after school per week from 4:00-5:00pm. **All students in Wind Ensemble are required to attend** their sectional once per week for a weekly grade in preparation for our UIL Concert & Sightreading Evaluation in early March. Students should be picked up in the parent drop-off loop by the Cafeteria by 5pm.

### Mondays

- **Percussion** in Band Hall with Smith
- **Woodwinds** (flutes, bassoon, clarinets & bass clarinet, & all saxophones) in *Ensemble Room* with Pulley

### Tuesdays

- **Brass** (trumpets, horns, trombones, euphoniums, & tubas) in Band Hall with Pulley

### Wednesdays

- **None**

### Thursdays

- **None**

Students are expected to "Be Punctual" and arrive seated with all materials and ready to rehearse at 4pm sharp or their grade will be affected. Students 1-5 minutes late will have their sectional grade reduced to an 85. Students who are late 5-15 minutes will have their grade reduced to a 70. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late will receive a 50.



#### Event Information

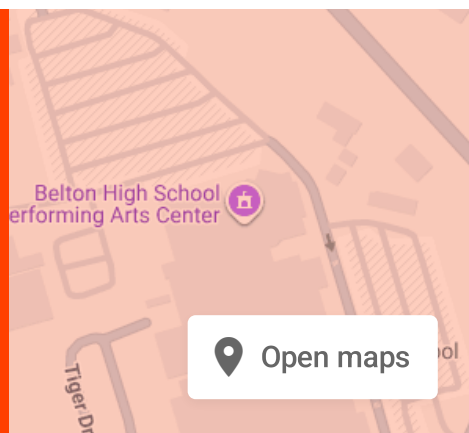
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**Belton High School Performing Arts Center, Lake Road,  
Belton, TX, USA**



## **Jazz Band**



### **All-Region Jazz Results**

Over 200 middle school band students from all across Central Texas competed in the TMEA All-Region Jazz Auditions. Only 42 were selected from a blind judging process and are considered the top jazz musicians in the area. Belton ISD placed a total of 17 students in the All-Region Jazz Band, which is over 40% of both jazz ensembles from area schools, and the most from any school district!

Belton MS had 6 students make this prestigious ensemble and we want to recognize these superior musicians:

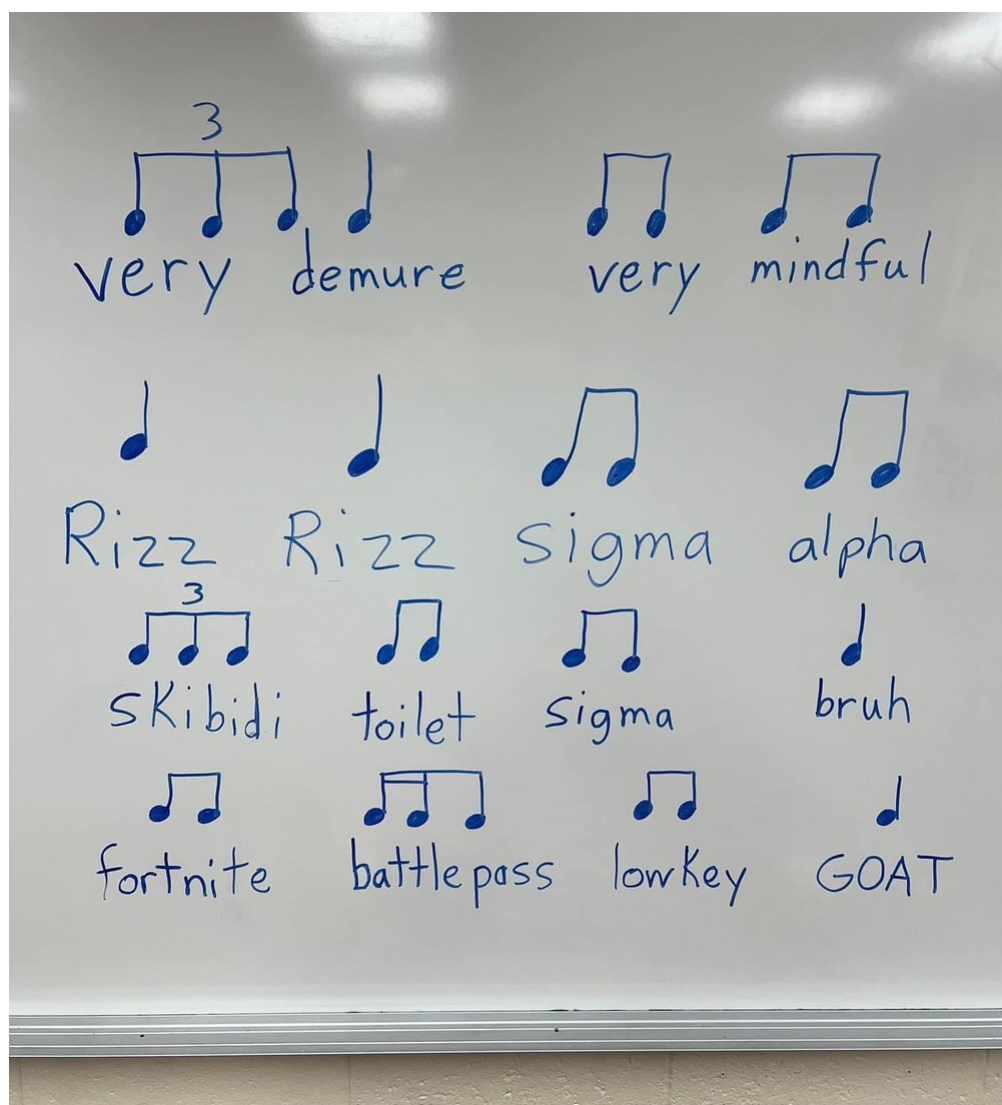
- **Nicolas Dieter** placed 7th out of 40 trumpets, earning 2nd Chair in Jazz Ensemble 2
- **Ethan Velez** placed 9th in the trumpets, earning 4th Chair in Jazz Ensemble 2. He is also an All-Region Concert Band member
- **Liam Henderson** placed 3rd out of 52 trombones, earning 3rd Chair in Jazz Ensemble 1. He is also an All-Region Concert Band member
- **Preston Kirkpatrick** placed 2nd out of 10 drummers, earning 2nd Chair in Jazz Ensemble 1
- **William Phipps** placed 3rd in the drum section, earning 1st Chair in Jazz Ensemble 2. He is also an All-Region Concert Band member
- **Jadyn Jones** placed 1st in the vibraphone section, earning 1st Chair in Jazz Ensemble 1 for the second year in a row. She is a 2-Year All-Region Jazz Band Member AND an All-Region Concert Band Member

As an honorable mention, **Ava Smith** placed 12th out of 40 trumpets, and serves as the 2nd Alternate. She is also an All-Region Concert Band Member.

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### Band Meme of the Week



## About the Directors



### Chris R. Pulley

- Director of Bands
- Wind Ensemble
- Jazz Band
- Brass Specialist (trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, & tuba)
- [chris.pulley@bisd.net](mailto:chris.pulley@bisd.net)



### Patrick M. Trahan

- Assistant Band Director
- Symphonic Band
- Woodwind Specialist (flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, & saxophone)
- [patrick.trahan@bisd.net](mailto:patrick.trahan@bisd.net)



### Ian Smith

- Assistant Band Director
- Percussion Specialist (keyboards, drums, & accessories)
- [ian.smith@bisd.net](mailto:ian.smith@bisd.net)

## Contact Us



Email: [beltonmsband@gmail.com](mailto:beltonmsband@gmail.com)

Website: [beltonmsband.org](http://beltonmsband.org)

Call/Text: [254-262-3050](tel:254-262-3050)

Address: [1704 Sparta Road, Belton, TX, USA](#)

Facebook: [facebook.com/beltonmsband](https://facebook.com/beltonmsband)

YouTube: [youtube.com/beltonmsband](https://youtube.com/beltonmsband)

Instagram: [instagram.com/beltonmsband](https://instagram.com/beltonmsband)



**Belton MS Band**

[beltonmsband.org](http://beltonmsband.org)

Contact

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This is for the Belton Middle School Band (Belton ISD) in Belton, Texas.