



BAND NOTES - WEEK OF AUGUST 17

2026-2027 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



Great Start to School!

We had a great first week of school! Our students were respectful and attentive, and we were able to set our procedures and rules of our program. **Their first homework assignment is due**, the Getting to Know You worksheet.

Supplies & Materials Were Due Last Friday

All Band supplies and materials were due last Friday and the lists for each level and instrument [can be found by clicking here on the Supplies & Materials page of our website](#).



Google Classroom

Google Classroom

We will be switching to Google Classroom this year for posting our assignments and announcements to students. At school, students will be accepting the invitation to join their class, as well as a program-wide Belton MS Band Group. Parents and guardians can sign up to be emailed summaries about their student's work in class, such as missing and upcoming work due and posted class

activities. Please [contact Mr. Pulley](#) if you have any questions about Google Classroom.

Our Registration Checklist Was Due Last Friday - Download & Complete It Below:



Band Registration Checklist.pdf

Download

377.8 KB

Private Lessons Are AWESOME!!!

Lessons are the **fastest** way students improve on their instrument because they have a quality teacher guiding them in their development of proper tone, rhythm, articulation, and musicality. Students enrolled in lessons usually earn first division superior ratings, make the All-Region Band, the have more fun learning their instrument because they sound **better**, faster.

[Please read this document](#) before deciding whether or not to sign up for lessons since it outlines the benefits of taking lessons **that occur during your child's band class!** If you have any questions about lessons, [please email Mr. Trahan here](#).

Check out our [list of quality lessons teachers by clicking here](#), AND [sign Up for Private Lessons here!](#)





Benefits of Private Lessons.pdf

Please read this document BEFORE deciding whether or not to sign up for private lessons.

Download

523.1 KB

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.



OCTOBER 2026

- 11 Thursday - Beginner's Ensemble Sit-In Concert Performance at BMS Cafeteria @ 6:30-7:15pm (required for all Beginners)
- 24 Wednesday - VA Hospital Performance @ 10:30am (required for Jazz Band)

NOVEMBER 2026

- 2 Monday - All Region Gram Jam at BMS @ 4:00-8:00pm (required for All Region)
- 5 Friday - Fall Sectionals End
- 7 Saturday* - All Region Auditions at College Station MS @ 6:00am-7:00pm (required for Wind Ensemble, strongly encouraged for Symphonic Band)
- 13 Friday - Payment Plans 2 & 4 Due (for school-owned instruments)
- 14 Saturday - All Region Clinic & Concert at Belton HS @ 8:30am-6:00pm (those selected for the All Region honor)
- 17 Tuesday* - Band Social at Spare Time @ 5:00-8:00pm (all band students invited)

DECEMBER 2026

- 11 Saturday* - Christmas on Chisholm Trail Jazz Performance (Jazz Band only)
- 7 Monday & 8 Tuesday - Beginner Group Rehearsals in BMS Band Hall @ 4-5pm
- 7 Monday - Jazz Band Rehearsal at Belton HS @ 9:00-10:00am (Jazz Band only)
- 8 Tuesday - Jazz Concert at Belton HS PAC @ 6:30pm (Jazz Band only)
- 9 Wednesday & 10 Thursday* - Elementary Tour (Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band)
- 11 Thursday* - Holiday Concert at Belton HS PAC @ 6:30pm (required for all students)

List of BMS Band Events 2026-2027

Changes in the calendar do happen as this is a living document. We will notify you via email of any changes as soon as we become aware of them, and the Google calendar can be found on the following website: tinyurl.com/beltonmsbandcalendar Many performances and contests require academic eligibil...

tinyurl.com



Our CutTime Program

CutTime is a program we use that allows you to **stay informed** without login hassles and **get reminded** without inbox clutter. Be on the lookout for a text message from CutTime from **844-385-8463**. The message will come to your mobile device phone number we have on file for you (and your student) via a "Magic Link", which is a uniquely personalized to you and secure.

Read the attachment below for instructions on how to add your Magic Link to your smartphone's home screen. Once you receive the message, you will gain access to your CutTime Portal Page where you can:

- View Announcements
- View and Subscribe to Events that involve you and your student
- View and Sign Up for Volunteer Opportunities within these events
- Check Account Balances

If we don't have your contact information, [please fill out this Contact Information Update Form](#) ASAP. If you missed or can't find your CutTime Magic Link, [go to this link to resend it to your device](#) on file.

Feel free to take 3 minutes to [watch this introduction video](#) and see what's in store, and feel free to send us a message if you have any other questions or feedback.



Developing Healthy Practice Habits



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](#).

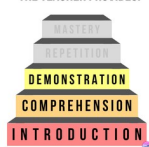
Check Out Our Socials!

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. 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

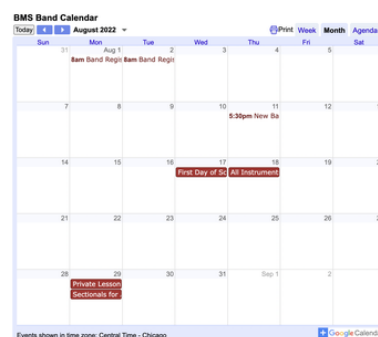
directors, we will teach your student *what* and *how* to practice, but we need your help in establishing *when* and *how much* they practice. The more they practice, the better they will get faster. Please review the How To Practice and Weekly XP Chart attached

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)

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

What Are We Learning About?

Beginners are learning the first 12 notes in their clef split into 2 different sets of index cards for their upcoming flashcards tests. These major grades will allow students to learn the names of the notes on the staff quickly by naming off 6 cards in 8 seconds or less. Students will need to pass both their tests before moving to learning the parts of their instrument for their upcoming quiz. Students can repeat their tests as many times as they need in order to earn a 100.



We will also start our music literacy lessons where students learn how to actually read music! The preview of this program can be viewed below created by Mr. Chilton:

Readymade Music Literacy in Just 3 Minutes



**Click Below to View the Slideshow from Our
New Parent Meeting Last Week:**



New Parent Meeting Slide Show

WELCOME PARENTS! Mission: To serve as superior ambassadors of our community, we strive to embody professional character, exemplary behavior, and exceptional musical experiences for every student.

tinyurl.com

Click Below to Read Our Band Handbook:



BMS Band Handbook 2026-2027.pdf

Download

797.2 KB

Symphonic Band

**ALL INSTRUMENTS/STICK BAGS &
BINDERS GO HOME EVERYDAY
FOR PRACTICING!**

**Please Complete the Fall Sectional Survey
By Wednesday:**

Fall Sectional Survey

Please use this form to fill out your student's availability after school Monday-Friday from 4:00-5:00pm starting the week of August 24 until November 6. We want to avoid athletic games, meets, tournaments, and matches. We have already worked out a plan with all coaches to share students when they participate in athletic practices.

All students in both Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble are required to attend one sectional per week from 4:00-5:00pm for a grade.

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.



Thank you for helping us create the best schedule we can for band sectionals this Fall.

Region Bootcamp - Saturday, August 22

All Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble students will participate in this required event with area teachers in masterclass-style to have a great head start in getting prepared for the TMEA All-Region Auditions on Saturday, November 7 in College Station.

Starting at 10am, we will work on getting back in shape for a couple of hours, followed by a free pizza lunch from 12-1pm. We will then spend another couple of hours in the afternoon until we wrap up at 3pm.



After School Sectionals Start August 24

Sectionals will start on Monday, August 24 until Friday, November 6 one day after school per week from 4:00-5:00pm. Complete the above survey and we will distribute the schedule soon.

ALL INSTRUMENTS/STICK BAGS & BINDERS GO HOME EVERYDAY FOR PRACTICING!

Please Complete the Fall Sectional Survey By This Wednesday:

Fall Sectional Survey

Please use this form to fill out your student's availability after school Monday-Friday from 4:00-5:00pm starting the week of August 24 until November 6. We want to avoid athletic games, meets, tournaments, and matches. We have already worked out a plan with all coaches to share students when they participate in athletic practices.

All students in both Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble are required to attend one sectional per week from 4:00-5:00pm for a grade.

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.

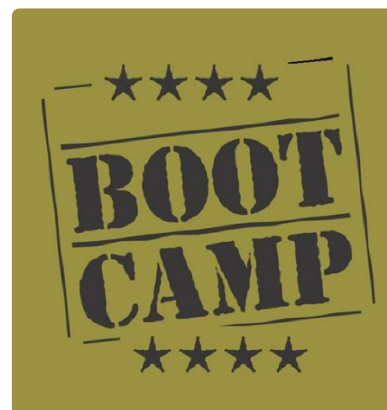


Thank you for helping us create the best schedule we can for band sectionals this Fall.

Region Bootcamp - Saturday, August 22

All Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble students will participate in this required event with area teachers in masterclass-style to have a great head start in getting prepared for the TMEA All-Region Auditions on Saturday, November 7 in College Station.

Starting at 10am, we will work on getting back in shape for a couple of hours, followed by a free pizza lunch from 12-1pm. We will then spend another couple of hours in the afternoon until we wrap up at 3pm.





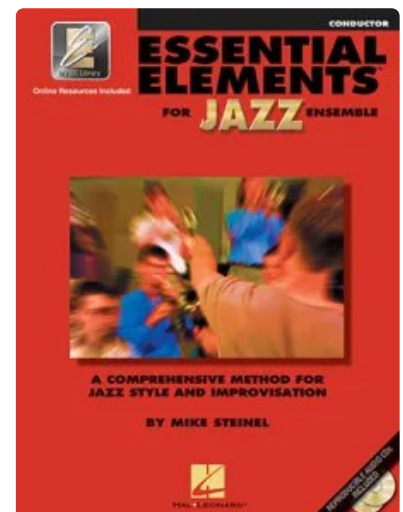
After School Sectionals Start August 24

Sectionals will start on Monday, August 24 until Friday, November 6 one day after school per week from 4:00-5:00pm. Complete the above survey and we will distribute the schedule soon.

Jazz Band

Essential Elements for Jazz Ensemble Book

All students should own the Red Book as shown and [can be purchased by clicking here](#).



Band Meme of the Week



About the Directors



Mr. Pulley

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



Mr. Trahan

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



Mr. Smith

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

Contact Us



Email: beltonmsband@gmail.com

Website: beltonmsband.org

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

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

Facebook: facebook.com/beltonmsband

YouTube: youtube.com/beltonmsband

Instagram: instagram.com/beltonmsband



Belton MS Band

beltonmsband.org

Contact

Subscribe



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