



BAND NOTES - WEEK OF AUGUST 31

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

InstaRaise Fundraiser Starts Monday, September 14

All Payments Due September 11

All payments for school-owned instrument usage fees, Beginner shirts, Advanced polo shirts, Jazz shirts, and Auto Decals are due by Friday, September 11 by visiting the [Forms page of our website](#) and paying through MySchoolBucks.



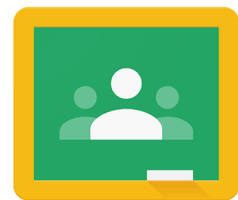
You can also send cash or checks made out to BMS with your student to school in an envelope with their name on the outside. These will need to be handed to a director or you can drop them off at the front office from 8am-4pm on school days.

If you have signed up for Payment Plans 2, 3, or 4, you just need to make your first payment by this date. Many parents already paid at Band Registration at the beginning of August. If not, kindly use this as your reminder to make your payment by September 11.

Remember we use the CutTime program to track how much you have paid into your student's Band account, so [click here to be resent your MagicLink](#) to look up their account of what you have and have not paid. See the section below for more information about CutTime, or [contact Mr. Pulley](#) if you are having problems accessing your account.

Google Classroom

We will be switching to Google Classroom this year for posting our assignments and announcements to students. All students have accepted the invitation to join their class, as well as the program-wide Belton MS Band Group.



Google Classroom

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.

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

- 13 Thursday - Beginner's Ensemble Sit-In Concert Performance at BMS Cafeteria @ 6:30-7:15pm (required for all beginners)

NOVEMBER 2026

- 2 Monday - All Region Grand Jam at BMS @ 4:00-8:00pm (required for All Region)
- 6 Friday - Fall Sections East
- 7 Saturday - All Region Auditions at College Station MS @ 6:00am-7:00pm (required for Wind Ensemble, strongly encouraged for Symphonic Band)
- 10 Thursday - VA Hospital Performance @ VAMC (required for Jazz Band)
- 15 Friday - Payment Plans 2 & 4 Due (for school-owned instruments)
- 18 Saturday - All Region Clinic & Concert at Belton HS @ 8:30am-6:00pm (those selected for the All Region honor)
- 19 Tuesday - Band Social at Spare Time @ 5:00-8:00pm (all band students invited)

DECEMBER 2026

- 15 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](#).

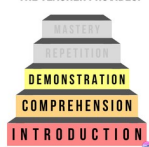
Check Out Our Socials!

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

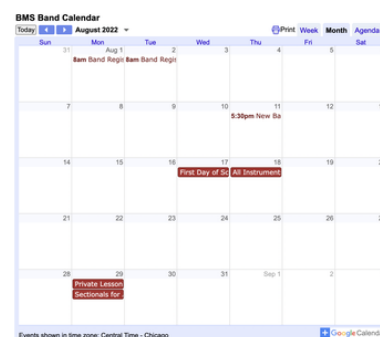
directors, we will teach your student *what* and *how* to practice, but we need your help in establishing *when* and *how much* they practice. The more they practice, the better they will get faster. Please review the How To Practice and Weekly XP Chart attached

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 now learning the parts of their instrument and starting to make their very first sounds on their mini-instrument!

This means the actual sound-producing part, such as mouthpiece, head joint, mouthpiece and barrel, mouthpiece and neck, etc. Don't be surprised when you see students making sounds on these parts first before putting the whole instrument together. In fact, **this is what they are supposed to be doing** in order to create a solid foundation and the fundamentals necessary for being an excellent musician.



Starting soon, students will be allowed to take their instruments home and **should be brought back to school daily**. We will *try* to check out French horns, euphoniums, and tubas that can stay at home until May in order to avoid taking them back and forth. We will also continue 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

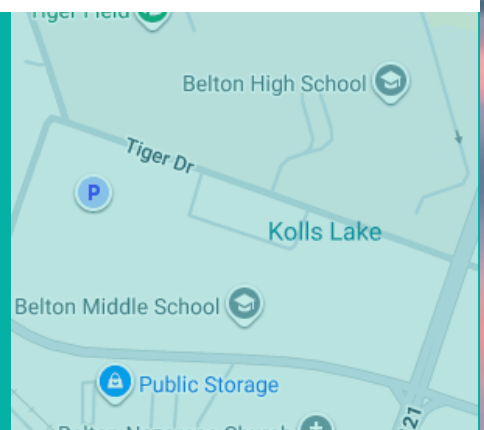


Event Information

Beginner Sit-In Concert Performance

Come join us for our **FIRST BAND PERFORMANCE!** All Woodwinds and Brass will be performing in the Cafeteria alongside their families, while Percussion performs in the Band Hall.

When?



Symphonic Band

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



ACTION REQUIRED: All-Region/Non-Region Track Declaration Form

To ensure our students receive the most suitable skill development and preparation, we've established two tracks: the All-Region Track and the Non-Region Track, catering to their individual needs.

All students participate in after school sectionals to complete weekly pass-offs for a major grade. Upon successfully passing off a section of music to a director or lessons teacher, they receive a grade of 100 for that major grade. Pass-Offs are scheduled with specific due dates to meet these benchmarks. The benchmarks differ between the All-Region Track and the Non-Region Track to align with each student's current musical skill level. The primary objective of the All-Region process and these pass-offs is to foster growth in all students, regardless of their current skill level.

The All-Region Track is designed for students who aspire to audition for our most competitive event of the year: the TMEA All-Region Auditions at College Station Middle School. *These students must commit to attending the auditions all day on Saturday, November 7, and if selected, the All-Region Clinic & Concert at Belton High School on the following Saturday, November 14.*

The Non-Region Track is for students who won't be attending the All-Region Auditions, but still benefit from this process and remain accountable for their musical growth by meeting appropriate benchmarks through their pass-offs. They have the same number of pass-offs as the All-Region Track and are still held accountable for achieving these grades, but at a less rigorous level.

After discussing with your student, [please click here to make your decision](#) on whether your student will follow the All-Region Track or the Non-Region Track. PLEASE COMPLETE BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.

Event Information

MS Band Night Rehearsal - 8th Graders Only

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE: This year only 8th graders will be performing at this event, so 7th graders will have to wait until next year! Both 7th and 8th graders will prepare stand tunes to perform at BMS pep rallies and other events.

When?

Wednesday, Sep 16, 2026, 05:00 PM

Where?

Belton Middle School, Sparta Road, Belton, TX, USA

Event Information

MS Band Night Performance - 8th Graders Only

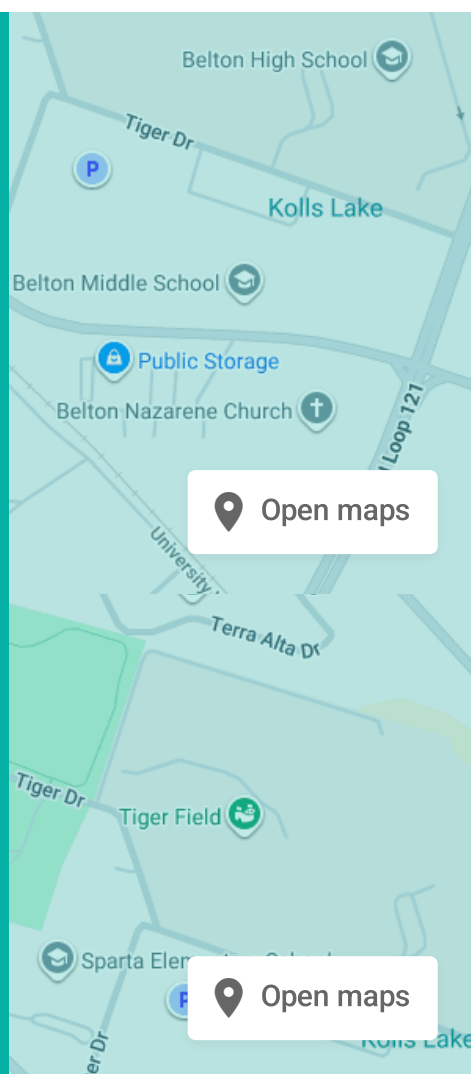
WE NEED PARENT CHAPERONES FOR THIS EVENT! Please sign up under **Events** in CutTime to sign up!

When?

Friday, Sep 18, 2026, 05:30 PM

Where?

Tiger Field, Lake Road, Belton, TX, USA



After School Sectionals Continue Until November 6

Sectionals are one day after school per week from 4:00-5:00pm and the weekly schedule is below:

- Mondays: **Flutes** in the Ensemble Room with Mr. Trahan
- Tuesdays: **All Saxophones** in the Ensemble Room with Mr. Trahan and **Horns** in the Band Hall with Mr. Pulley
- Wednesdays: **Clarinets** in the Orchestra Room with Mr. Trahan, **Trumpets/Trombones/Euphoniums** in the Band Hall with Mr. Pulley, and **Percussion** in the Ensemble Room with Mr. Smith
- Thursdays: **Tubas** in the Band Hall with Mr. Pulley
- **Oboes & Bassoons** will be pulled from their regular 2nd/3rd period class to work with a director





Region Bootcamp 2026 · Saturday, Aug 22 📷

Shared album · Tap to view!

🔗 photos.app.goo.gl

Wind Ensemble

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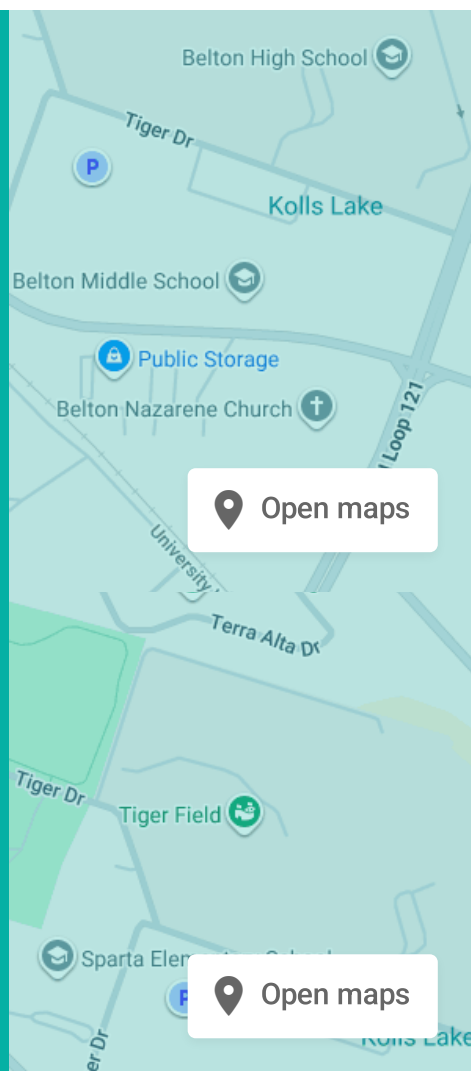
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Jazz Band

First Performance Date Change

Our Jazz Band has been invited to perform for a Veteran's Day ceremony on **Tuesday, November 10**. Please note this is a change from our original calendar and list of events and all friends and



family are invited to attend. We will share more details when they become available.

Band Meme of the Week



About the Directors



Mr. Pulley

- Director of Bands
- Wind Ensemble
- Jazz Band



Mr. Trahan

- Assistant Band Director
- Symphonic Band



Mr. Smith

- Assistant Band Director
- Percussion Specialist (keyboards, drums, &

- Brass Specialist (trumpet,
horn, trombone, euphonium, &
tuba)
- chris.pulley@bisd.net

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

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

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