

Bon Lin Middle School

Band Handbook

Ben Tucker  
Director

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to the Bon Lin Middle School band program. My name is Benjamin Tucker, and I am your band director. I am very excited about continuing to build on the success of our first two years. Going into our third year, we are continuing a few new things we started last year and I look forward to growing the program. We will be continuing the Jazz Band and Honor Band, and we will be looking at taking a trip in the Spring with the Honor Band and Jazz Band. We will need the support of all our parents to grow this program the right way. I hope that we can count on your support throughout the year as we move toward creating an established program in the area.

With that said, I want to take time to list out the rules and procedures that will be established for this band as well as the performance schedule for the coming year. Please read them carefully, and check all performance dates with your calendar. I need to know as soon as possible of any conflicts with these.

I have high expectations for this band program, and I look forward to getting to know all of you and teaching all my students the joy of making music.

-Benjamin Tucker  
Band Director  
[director@bonlinband.org](mailto:director@bonlinband.org)  
901-487-0675

## Band Supply List

### All Students:

Pencil

Method Book:

6th: Standards of Excellence, Bk. 1

7th: Standards of Excellence, Bks.  
1 & 2

8th: Essential Elements, Bk. 2

Foundations for Superior

Performance

Optional:

Folding Music Stand (for home use)

Metronome

Tuner

### Flute:

Cleaning/Tuning Rod

Flute Swab

Polishing Cloth

### Oboe/Bassoon:

Reeds (Oboe and Bassoon  
students must keep a  
stock of at least 2 reeds)

Cleaning Swab

Cork Grease

### Clarinet:

Reeds (all students must  
keep a stock of at  
least 5 reeds at all  
times)

Cork Grease

Pull-through Swab

Mouthpiece Brush

### Saxophone:

Reeds (all students must keep a  
stock of at least 2 reeds at all  
times)

Cork Grease

Pull-through Swab

Neck Strap

Mouthpiece Brush

### Trumpet/Baritone/Tuba:

Valve Oil

Slide Grease

Polishing Cloth

Mouthpiece Brush

Vinyl Cleaning Snake

### French Horn:

Rotor Oil

Tuning Slide Grease

Mouthpiece Brush

Polishing Cloth

Vinyl Cleaning Snake

### Trombone:

Slide Oil

Tuning Slide Grease

Mouthpiece Brush

Polishing Cloth

Vinyl Cleaning Snake

## Percussion Supplies

All 6th grade percussion students will need to rent or buy a bell set and a practice pad. Many parents have found that purchasing is cheaper in the long run. Feel free to do either. They will also need a set of bell mallets, brass or nylon, and a set of drum sticks, size 2B or smaller. All 7th and 8th grade percussion students will need a set of drum sticks, mallets for bells, xylophone, and marimba, and a stick bag. All percussion students should also purchase a drum key.

## Local Stores

All of these supplies can be found at your local music stores. If you go anywhere other than Amro or Bartlett Music Academy, call ahead to see if they have the method book in stock.

Amro Music  
2918 Poplar Ave  
Memphis, TN 38111  
(901) 323-8888

Bartlett Music Academy  
6757 Stage Rd  
Bartlett, TN 38134  
(901) 213-4262

Lane Music  
9309 Poplar Ave  
Germantown, TN 38138  
(901) 755-5025

Online:

Woodwind and Brasswind  
[www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com)

## Band Room Rules

My rules are simple and easy to follow:

1. Be Respectful
2. Be Responsible
3. Be Ready

Aside from these the only other rule you need to be aware of is absolutely NO food, drink, or gum in the band room. We have a brand new band room and brand new equipment, and we want to keep it looking good for a long time. I do allow water in the band room, but it is up to each student to get permission from their other teachers to have it.

We will be following the school-wide discipline plan, PBIS. Everyone will become very familiar with this system over the coming weeks, and I believe it will allow us to be more productive during class time.

### Playing Tests:

Playing Tests happen many times over the course of each grading period. Some may be planned and students will have advance notice of these. Some may be surprise playing tests when I feel that they are warranted. This is to ensure that all students are practicing at home and to gauge progress over time. There is a possibility that I will give written tests. If and when these happen, they will be included in the grades for playing tests. Concerts are also included in playing test grades.

### Weekly Participation:

Weekly Participation includes in-class playing and having all supplies, method books, and music. It is an important part of band to learn responsibility, and having all supplies, every class, is very important. I do NOT dock points for absences, excused or otherwise.

## Grading Rubric

20% Weekly Participation Grade  
30% Student Goal Records  
50% Playing Tests (May also include some written tests)

**Student Goal Records:** We are constantly working to update our methods to find ways to take grades in band that also provide value to the students. This year we will be implementing Student Goal Records. These will be filled out every couple of weeks by Mr. Tucker and passed out to each student. They contain information on what you need to work on at home and what you are doing well, as well as some exercises to help you improve. These will be individualized for each student. All students must keep these in their folder. Each quarter, I will collect these and a grade will be given. I must stress how important it is to keep these with you. These sheets help me plan lessons and show progress over time. Also, if they are not turned in a zero will be given, which will adversely affect your grade.



# A Note From the Band Booster President

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students;

I would like to welcome you and your child to the Bon Lin Middle School Band! We are excited to have both new and returning members. My name is June Gordon and I am the new Band Booster President here at Bon Lin Middle School. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year which can only be achieved through the hard work and dedication of the students, administration and you the parent.

I encourage ALL parents and guardians to devote some of their time to the students of the program. With your help and encouragement students can be the best that they can be. Experts have concluded that the study of music helps with spatial reasoning, test taking, motional development, leadership training, group interaction, aesthetic perception, music making, discipline of being in a band program, and the overall quality of life.

The ultimate goal is a lifelong understanding and appreciation for quality music and music making. I look forward to serving you along with the other band booster members for the upcoming school year.

**June Gordon**

## Performance Dress

Our concert dress will be as follows:

Black Shoes  
Black Socks  
Black Pants  
Black Belt  
Band Polo (included in band fees)

Part of giving a good performance is looking professional. Therefore, in order to receive full credit for a performance, you must be in full concert dress. If anyone has issues with obtaining these things, please contact me and we can talk privately.

## Band Fees

Band fees at Bon Lin are \$100. We will begin collecting on registration day. If, for financial reasons, you cannot pay the fee or would like to work out a schedule to pay gradually, contact me and we can speak privately. I would love to not have to have fees at all, but with little funding coming from the school board, fees are necessary. Included in our fees will be the band polo shirt, which all students will wear as part of their concert attire.

## Band Calendar

Here is the calendar for band this year. Please mark these dates in your calendar and let me know of any conflicts as soon as possible.

Winter Concert: TBA  
All-West Auditions: Jan. 8, 2011  
@Collierville High School  
All-West Clinic: Feb. 3-5, 2011  
@Canon Center  
Concert Festival (Honor Band only):  
March 8-9, 2011  
(during school)  
Colonial MS  
Solo and Ensemble: April 16, 2011  
@Cordova MS  
Spring Concert: TBA  
Jazz Festival: April 19, 2011 (Jazz Band Only)  
@Buckman Performing Arts Center, St. Mary's Episcopal School  
Spring Trip: TBA (Honor Band and Jazz Band Only)

In addition to these dates, I will begin auditioning for places in the Honor Band and Jazz Band around the first of November. Jazz Band will meet on Monday and Wednesday mornings at 7:45. Honor Band will meet on Tuesday

### Contact Info:

E-mail: [director@bonlinband.org](mailto:director@bonlinband.org)  
Phone: 901-347-1520 Ext. 235

**Tri-M Music Honor Society:** This year at Bon Lin, we are looking into starting a chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. More info will be given on this at a later time.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby affirm that I have read and thoroughly understand the Bon Lin Middle School Band Handbook. I further affirm that I will abide by the rules, regulations and intent of said Handbook, and understand the penalties for not doing so. I have had all questions concerning the content of this Handbook answered and will do my best to live up to the intent of this contract.

Print Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I/We have read the Bon Lin Middle School Band Handbook and have discussed it with my/our child. I/We have had all questions concerning the content of this Handbook answered and I/we will do our best to encourage him/her to abide by the rules and regulations of the band as expressed in the Band Handbook.

Print Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I have been receiving e-mails from the band.

I have not been receiving e-mails from the band and my e-mail address is:

\_\_\_\_\_

I have not been receiving e-mails and prefer to receive paper copies of e-mails sent to the parents. I understand that there may be a delay in receiving communications this way.

Please tear off this page and return to me signed by Friday August 13, 2010.

Band Handbook Addendum:

The following items are in addition to the published band handbook.

1. Honor Band will rehearse on Monday and Thursday mornings from 7:45 until 8:45. Jazz Band will rehearse on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 7:45 until 8:45.
2. The grading scale is changing slightly. It will be 50% Playing Tests/Concerts, 25% Written Quizzes/Written Assignments, 25% Class Participation.