

BULLDOG PRIDE



Edward Bellamy Middle School Concert Band

Mr. Michael R. Haas, Director

August 29th 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians of All Instrumental Students,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to the new school year and to Edward Bellamy Middle School. I hope everyone's summer was pleasant as well as restful. Now that we are back, it won't be long before the Bellamy Band will be performing. In order for each student to progress, a "team effort" is needed. Each student **must**:

1. Attend each rehearsal (with instrument),
2. Practice his/her music regularly (daily),
3. Attend all concerts.

Please read and have your son/daughter read the grading procedure and curriculum for each group located on the band website: <http://mhaas7.wix.com/bellamyband>. These will clearly define what is expected of each student and what will be needed to attain a desirable grade.

Please sign and have your son/daughter sign and return the bottom portion of this letter to me by Friday September 6, 2019. I am looking forward to a great year with these talented musicians and hope you are able to attend all of our performances.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael R. Haas

P.S. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me @ 413-594-3527 or email: mhaas@cpsge.org

I have read the above "contract" and the online document.

STUDENT SIGNATURE

I/We agree to help our son/daughter stay prepared for his/her music lessons.

PARENT SIGNATURE

BULLDOG PRIDE

Dear Parents of all Instrumental Students,

Now that school has started, I would like to give you an update on the instrumental music program and what students will need to get off to a successful start. Each student will need the necessary accessories to begin the year. These can be obtained from most music stores, but we have one that delivers directly to our school.

Gerry's Music 413-534-7402

I am including a list of all items students will need to begin the year. Students should plan on obtaining these items as quickly as possible. If you are unable to find any supplies, please let me know. Gerry's Music visits the school weekly and will deliver any needed supplies that you order from them.

Flute

Cleaning rod
A soft cleaning cloth
Pencil
Name Tag on Case

French Horn

Rotor Oil
Tuning slide grease
Pencil
Name Tag on Case

Percussion

A Pair of Drum Sticks
A Pair of Bell Mallets
(if renting bells)
Pencil
Name Tag on Case

Clarinet

5 - Reeds Strength 2 1/2
A cleaning swab
Pencil
Name Tag on Case

Trumpet

Valve Oil
Tuning slide grease
Pencil
Name Tag on Case

Oboe

2 - Medium Soft
A cleaning swab
A reed case
Pencil
Name Tag on Case

Saxophone

5 - Reeds Strength 2 1/2
A cleaning swab
Pencil
Name Tag on Case

Trombone

Slide Cream (NOT OIL)
Tuning slide grease
Spray Bottle (small)
Pencil & Name Tag/Case

A method book for their instrument is also required and can be purchased from Gerry's Music or any retailer you wish.

6th Grade Standard of Excellence Book 1 (RED)

7th Grade Standard of Excellence Book 2 (BLUE)

8th Grade Standard of Excellence Book 3 (GREEN)

BULLDOG PRIDE

Grading Scale

Participation **45%**

Students must take an active part in learning daily. This includes practicing outside of the school day in order to participate with required material in class.

Playing Quizzes/ Written Tests **45%**

Playing Quiz: Students will be assessed using, but not limited to; rubrics, recordings, and by way of computer software (Smartmusic).

All performances are graded as a playing quiz!

Attendance at performances will count as a portion of the quiz grade. If you are not able to attend a performance, you must inform Mr. Haas in writing at least two weeks prior to the performance and schedule a time to take the quiz prior to the performance. If you are absent from a performance due to an emergency, documentation, in line with district policy, must be provided in order to make up the grade with full credit.

Written Test: Students will demonstrate their knowledge of their instrument, music notation, theory, and history.

Homework **10%**

Students will practice material based on their individual needs and the needs of the band. Assignments will be given via Google Classroom.

The band will rehearse as soon as possible. It is recommended that each student have their instrument and required supplies by the start of the second week of school (9/3/2019).

While we do have facilities for rehearsal, it is **highly recommended** that each student bring his/her instrument home each night. We cannot guarantee that any instrument will be 100% secure. This also helps in fostering good practice habits.

BULLDOG PRIDE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

There are computer programs available that will benefit members of the band. These programs have a minimal cost and can be downloaded directly from the Internet.

These programs are not required; however, they can make practicing more entertaining and help to motivate the students.

Noteflight is an online music notation program that allows students to compose music on a computer and have it played back to them. Noteflight is web based. <https://www.noteflight.com/login>

Finale Notepad This is a music notation program that allows students to compose music on a computer and have it played back to them. Students are able to save and print their work. Finale Notepad is a program that you must download and install on your computer. For more information please go to:
<http://www.finalemusic.com/notepad/default.aspx>

Smartmusic

The new SmartMusic is in the cloud. This means it supports the devices students use today, including Chromebooks, iPads, and computers. What's more, students can connect from different locations and devices using one account. There is no longer an excuse for not practicing – because they can do it anywhere.

Now your students can choose to:

- Hear their part played by their instrument rather than a piano.
- See a count-off for multi-measure rests.
- Hear more or less of the accompaniment, their part, or the metronome.
- Control whether the measure being played is highlighted, whether or not to view the cursor, and if the cursor flows or moves beat-by-beat.

- Windows and Mac
 - Latest version of Chrome browser is required
 - Chrome system requirements can be found [here](#)
 - High-speed internet access, a microphone, speakers (headphones recommended)
 - 4gb RAM
- Chromebook
 - Latest version of Chrome OS required
 - High-speed internet access, a microphone, speakers (headphones recommended)
 - 4gb RAM
- iPad requirements
 - SmartMusic requires a dedicated app for iPads. You can download the app at the [Apple app store](#).
 - A7 processor models and later - iPad Air, iPad Air 2, iPad mini 2, iPad mini 3, iPad mini 4, 12.9-inch iPad Pro, or 9.7-inch iPad Pro
 - iOS 9.0 or later required
 - Headphones recommended
- Smartphones and Android tablets
 - NOT SUPPORTED AT THIS TIME