

BILL REED
MIDDLE SCHOOL
ORCHESTRA
HANDBOOK



2015-2016

Mr. David Saccardi
Teacher and Director

Welcome to Bill Reed Middle School Orchestra! In the Orchestra program at Bill Reed you will learn to perform on a stringed instrument, make new friends, and experience the many benefits of participating in instrumental music. We are very proud of our Orchestra Program at Bill Reed, and welcome back old friends as well as new students.

Course Descriptions

6th GRADE ORCHESTRA

Beginning class instruction in violin, viola, 'cello, and bass. Students progress through the sequence of first year string technique via a skill-based curriculum. Opportunities exist for large and small group performance and numerous supplemental activities. Emphasis is placed on proper instrument setup, tone production, music literacy, and basic ensemble skills. Students will perform music at a Grade 1 level. Participation in one group concert per quarter is required.

Required book is Essential Elements for Strings 2000 Book 1-Students must provide their own book.

7th GRADE ORCHESTRA

Continuing class instruction in violin, viola, 'cello, and bass. Students continue to progress through the sequence of string technique. While stress is placed on orchestral performing skills, opportunities exist for solo and small ensemble performance. Students will perform music at a Grade 2-Grade 3 level. Participation in district-sponsored clinics and festivals as well as performing in one group concert per quarter is required.

Classroom Methods will be provided: Essential Elements for Strings 2000 Book 2, and Sight Read It! For Strings

8TH GRADE ORCHESTRA

Further class instruction in violin, viola, 'cello, and bass. Students continue to progress through the sequence of string technique. While stress is placed on orchestral performing skills, opportunities exist for solo and small ensemble performance. Students will perform music at a Grade 3-Grade 4 level. Participation in district-sponsored contests, CHSAA Large Group Festival, 8th Grade festival with Erwin MS, and recruitment tours, as well as performing in one group concert per quarter is required.

Classroom Methods will be provided: Essential Technique for Strings 2000 Book 3, and Sight Read It! For Strings

There will be one concert per quarter for all grade levels, as well as additional performance opportunities for 7th and 8th graders.

All performances are REQUIRED and for a grade

Classroom Behavior Expectations

- Stay engaged during instruction. RESPECT OTHERS.
- Be on time Tardiness to class will result in a reduction of daily participation points.
- Have instrument, music, agenda and pencil at your seat when rehearsal starts.
- Please use restroom and get drinks **before** class to minimize disruptions. You may leave class, with a pass, for emergencies only.
- Cell phones are turned off and out of sight.
- No food or drink, gum, or hats.
 - Students who choose to disregard the above expectations will:
 - Step 1. Be reminded of the expectations.
 - Step 2. Be assigned a detention after school and call their parent to explain the situation.
 - Step 3. Be referred to an administrator
 - Step 4. Have a conference with parents and administrator to discuss removing the student from the orchestra.

Attendance

Classroom attendance policy for Orchestra is the same as for every other class at BRMS. Attendance at all rehearsals is crucial for success of the group as well as for your own musical growth. Students who attend without an instrument will receive a zero for participation for the day, and will be expected to make up the lesson in practice time.

Absence Policy

Attendance at concerts is **REQUIRED**. The concert is your final exam in Orchestra. Good communication between students, teacher and parents can prevent misunderstandings.

1. Written notices from parents are required for all absences. Verbal or written excuses from students are not accepted.
2. Advance notices are required for all prior commitments (a date already committed to another event when the schedule is announced). Students are expected to arrange work schedules and social calendars to accommodate orchestra events.
3. In case of illness or family emergency, please notify the director. Please follow up with a written note from parents as soon as possible. This is the **ONLY** category where absences will be excused the same day, or after, the event.
4. Conflicts with religious holidays or individual religious beliefs are considered excused if the teacher is notified in writing by the parent.
5. Students must stay for the **ENTIRE CONCERT**. It is very important to the musical development of a young musician to hear the older players.
6. All absences in the above categories, verified by parent note, will be considered excused.

Please note: Once a student commits to an "extra" performance, then attendance no longer becomes optional and the previous attendance policy applies.

Grading

Academic Grades (SBG):

Concerts	20%
Playing tests & written assignments	50%
Practice Cards	30%

Work Habits Grade:

-Concert behavior
-Daily attitude and participation
-Preparedness: instrument, music, and accessories

Standards Based Grading Guidelines

4. Student demonstrates proficiency on all standards with evidence of advanced work.
3. Student demonstrates proficiency on all standards.
2. Student demonstrates proficiency on some standards.
1. Student does not meet the standards-support and interventions are necessary.

Practice Cards

Practice cards will count as a major part of every orchestra student's grade. This is a weekly assignment, due every Monday at the start of class. Students will turn in a practice card, and it will be graded and returned to them for the next weeks completion. Parents are required to sign practice cards for students to receive full credit for a given week. 7th and 8th Grade students are required one hour of practice per week. Failure to turn in practice cards will result in a missing grade, and it is impossible to receive an "A" in orchestra if a student does not turn in practice cards. Students will have until the end of a week to receive full credit for that week's practice card.

Care of Music

Each student is expected to maintain a current folder of all music handed out. Keep your folder in your locker or assigned slot. Always have your folder in class.

Students who misplace or loose music are expected to pay twenty-five cents per page of music lost to make up for the cost of replacement music.

Equipment

1. Keep instruments in good playing condition.
2. Have rosin, shoulder rests, cello/bass strap, a cloth, a pencil, good strings, etc.
3. DO NOT, for any reason, touch or play an instrument that is not checked out to you. This is for your own protection as well as the schools.
4. Storage is available in the Orchestra room for students who bring their own violins and violas from home. Space will be designated for each grade level.

Cello and Bass Rentals

Cellos and basses may be rented from the district at a cost of \$40 per year. Rental forms will be sent home in September. Your form and payment must be returned to Bill Reed by **August 29, 2014**. If you are shopping for an instrument, I will be happy to assist you in your search. **PLEASE NOTE there is a limited number of instruments available, and will be rented out on a first come, first serve basis.**

Concert Dress

Students will get the opportunity to purchase a Bill Reed Middle School Music Department T-shirt, that is to be worn for all concerts and performances. Information will be sent home shortly. Please note your student's t-shirt size and the **\$6.00 cost for a shirt** on the last page of this handbook. In addition to the t-shirt, your student will need black slacks or skirt (Past the knees), black shoes, black socks and closed toed shoes (for young ladies).

Instrument Repair

We are very fortunate to have qualified string instrument repair specialists in the Loveland/ Fort Collins area. If your instrument becomes damaged or needs routine work or maintenance, contact:

Boomer Music
Fort Collins
970-223-2424

Murphy Violins
Fort Collins
970-224-4865

Private Lessons

Private instruction on one's instrument is the best way to get ahead in orchestra and ensure success in the class. We are fortunate in Northern Colorado to have so many talented and wonderful private teachers. If you or your student is interested in private lessons, Mr. Saccardi will be happy to provide you with a list of names to contact.

BRMS Orchestra Calendar 2014-2015

Please put these important dates on your calendar. All events that take place at BRMS are REQUIRED, as are all festival concerts and opportunities for 8th grade orchestra students.

Date	Event	Time	Place
8/20	6 th Grade First Day	7 AM	BRMS
8/21	7 th /8 th Grade First Day	7 AM	BRMS
10/8	Fall Orchestra Concert	6 PM	BRMS
12/4	Mountain View Orchestra Festival- 8th ONLY	TBA	MVHS
12/8	Holiday Orchestra Concert	6 PM	BRMS
1-27-1/30	Mr. Saccardi @ CMEA Conference		
2/9	8th Grade Festival with LEMS - 8TH ONLY	AFTER SCHOO	LHS
3/15	March Orchestra Concert	6 PM	BRMS
March TBA	TSD Middle School Honor Orchestra	ALL DAY	TBA
5/19	Spring Orchestra Concert	6 PM	BRMS
5/27	Last Day of School- All Rentals Due Back!		
July 2016	16th Annual Summer Academy of Music!		

BRMS- Bill Reed Middle School LHS- Loveland High School MVHS-Mountain View HS

There may be additional performances and events that arise during the year, written notice and parent communication will be made available in the event of another activity scheduled.

PLEASE SAVE THIS PAGE FOR YOUR RECORDS AND MAKE SURE YOU WRITE DOWN ALL CONCERT DATES

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO THE MR. SACCARDI

As a student and member of the orchestra, I have read the Orchestra Handbook and agree to abide by the policies it outlines.

Student's Signature

Date

As the parent of this student, I understand the policies my son or daughter is expected to follow.

Parent's Signature

Date

Parent email address (for communication purposes)

INFORMATION FOR BRMS MUSIC DEPARTMENT T-SHIRT

Student Size (Circle One-All sizes are ADULT sizes)

S M L XL XXL

Please return this page signed, with your t-shirt size and a \$6.00 check made out to BRMS. Please return this to Mr. Saccardi no later than AUGUST 29.

The prompt return of this page will count as your student's first grade of the year.