

Jim Barnes Middle School Band Handbook

email: smoriarty@seguin.k12.tx.us lrios@seguin.k12.tx.us
phone: (830)-401-8756 ext.25408 (830)-401-8756 ext.25409

Dear Band Students and Parents,

In this handbook, you will find important information about the Jim Barnes Band Program and a list of important band dates. Please keep it and refer back to it anytime you have a question. We thank you for your assistance and patience filling out and submitting the attached forms for your band student.

Please Turn In:

All Attached Forms (including Signed Contract) by Friday, August 31st, 2018

All T-Shirt & School Instrument Rental Fee by Friday September 28th, 2018

All Contest/Trip Fee by Friday February 1st, 2019

Course Information

At Jim Barnes Middle School, approximately 300 students will enjoy the daily musical experiences provided in their band classes. These young instrumentalists will not only gain a greater knowledge of all aspects of music, they will also develop discipline, responsibility, and the ability to cooperate with others. When you add to this, the discovery of a life-long means of self expression and pleasure, you can see why so many students benefit from and enjoy being a part of the Jim Barnes Band Program.

The Beginner Band is made up of 6th grade students who have had no prior experience in playing a band instrument. These students will be scheduled into the following separate classes. Flute, Oboe/Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone/Baritone, Tuba, and Percussion. Performances which the Beginner Band will be involved in include the Demonstration Concert, Band BBQ, Winter and Spring Concerts, solo and ensemble contest, and festival contest.

The Concert and Symphonic Bands are made up of 7th and 8th graders. These students have full band every school day. Performances which the Concert and Symphonic Bands will be involved in include the Band BBQ, Fall/Winter/Spring Concerts, Pre-UIL and UIL Contest, solo and ensemble, TLU band festival contest, and some pep rallies.

The Honor Band is made up of primarily 8th graders but may include a few 7th graders. This band is the most advanced group of students. The standard for this band is very high. The performances which the Honor Band will be involved in include the Band BBQ, Fall/Winter/Spring Concerts, Pre-UIL and UIL Contest, solo and ensemble, school concerts, TLU band festival contest, some pep rallies, and possibly an extra concert/contest/trip.

At the end of the school year, 6th and 7th graders will audition for placement in the Concert, Symphonic or Honor Band for the following school year.

Activity Policies

This handbook contains a list of band activities, concert dates and events the Jim Barnes Bands will be involved in throughout the school year. If there are any changes or additions, we will inform students and parents as soon as they are known. **Each student is required to be at all performances listed for his/her band.**

We ask that you keep the band calendar as well as add it to your personal calendars. Please schedule other activities and appointments at times that do not conflict with band activities. It is impossible for the band program to schedule around the activities of 300 plus students and families. Therefore, we ask for your cooperation in scheduling around band activities.

Parents and Students are encouraged to plan ahead and know their obligations for Band, other electives, clubs and organizations, and personal schedules such as vacations, dentist appointments, etc. Directors should be informed of any potential conflict no less than two weeks prior to the event to allow time to work out the conflict.

Excused absences will be given only for illness, death in the immediate family, or immediate family emergencies. Outside of school activities are not considered reasons for excused absences. Multiple unexcused absences may result in the student being moved to a lower band.

Please be careful when scheduling major orthodontic work. Having braces or Invisalign put on or taken off just before a performance can be detrimental to a students' performance. Contact the directors if you have any questions!

Your help, planning, and cooperation in these matters are very much appreciated!

How To Get Information

We have multiple ways of communication including email through Charms, Remind, and Facebook. At the beginning of the year, please join so you can stay informed about upcoming events, due dates, and other important info.

- 1) Charms ***REQUIRED sign up** (attached form)
 - Informational communication and record keeping tool of the Jim Barnes Middle School and Seguin High School Band Program.

- CHARMS is used to manage almost all student and parent information as well as email, calendar, view/upload documents, volunteer sign-ups and more. Directors will email parents important info/reminders through CHARMS therefore its important everyone has their information updated.
- 2) Remind (attached form)
- Beginner Band (ALL 6th Graders)
 - Concert Band
 - Symphonic Band
 - Honor Band
- 3) Facebook
- “Like” the *Jim Barnes Middle School Band* page

Miscellaneous Band Fees

At the beginning of the year, we will collect money from parents and students for various items, activities, fees, and trips. Below is a list of items we will collect for. Please realize that these figures are “ballpark” and could change. **We ask that payments be made by Friday, September 28th, 2018. Please contact Mr. Moriarty if there is a problem in providing these fees for your child.**

1) Contest/Trip Fee

6th Grade (\$60 total per student):

- Soundwaves Schlitterbahn Festival Trip
 - a) contest entry fee (\$30)
 - b) water park entry fee plus meal ticket (\$30)

7th/8th Grade (\$60 total per student):

- TLU Band Festival entry fee (\$30)
- Fiesta Texas trip fee (\$30)

NOTE: These band fees can be lowered by fundraising opportunities. We will have one fundraiser in the fall and one in the spring to help cover these costs. Fundraiser participation is not required and is completely optional, but we do encourage participation to help lower your students Contest/Trip Fee.

2) “Monster Band” T-Shirt (\$15)

- **Required for all 6th graders as part of the uniform.**
 - 7th and 8th graders are welcome to order another t-shirt if the current one has become faded or worn. *It is always nice to start out the school year with a new band shirt!*
- Orders will be taken during the first few weeks of school.
- We encourage parents to order one also to show support for your child and the band program!

- 3) School Owned Instrument Rental Fee (\$60)
 - This ***ONLY*** applies to students renting an instrument from the school. These instruments include Bass Clarinet, Contra-Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, French Horn, Trigger Trombone, Baritone, and Tuba. **Rental fee is required to pay for repairs, cleaning, and reconditioning of instrument.**

- 4) Tuxedo Shirt (\$20) ***ONLY*** 7th and 8th graders (boys and girls)
 - This is a required part of the uniform for our Pre-UIL and UIL contest as well as our TLU Band Festival. 8th graders who have a tuxedo shirt that still fits do not have to purchase a new one.
 - Measurements and orders will be taken sometime during the fall.

Performance and Trip Dress

Each student is responsible for correct concert attire. The band's appearance on stage is an important aspect of our performances. *It is important that every member have the correct items!*

All band students will have a "Monster Band" T-Shirt to wear at some point during the year (concert, pep rallies, trips, etc).

Beginner Band: concert attire is jeans, the "Monster Band" T-Shirt, tennis shoes.

Concert, Symphonic and Honor Band

- 1) Band BBQ/Fiesta Texas trip: the "Monster Band" T-Shirt, jeans, tennis shoes. (For the Fiesta Texas trip, khaki or other shorts are allowed)

- 2) Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts: Wear "Sunday's Best".
Boys - dress pants, button shirt, tie (optional), dress shoes
Girls - dresses or blouses/skirts, dress shoes (flats, heels, etc.)
Note: Please do not wear jeans, t-shirts, tennis shoes.

- 3) UIL and TLU Contest:
Students (boys and girls) will wear the tuxedo uniform. This uniform includes tuxedo shirt (ordered in the fall), black dress pants (purchased on your own), black dress socks, and black dress shoes/flats/heels.

More information will be given out at the **Band Parent Meeting on September 11th at 6:00pm in the JBMS Cafeteria.**

Honor Band and Symphonic Band Sectional Policy

Sectional practices are a required part of Honor and Symphonic Band's grade and are essential in order for the bands to perform at the highest level.

Sectional practices are just like athletic/cheer practice. If the team does not practice before or after school, the team may not compete as well as they could. Section practices for both bands will be either before or after school one day a week, as scheduled by the director. We do our best not to conflict with other school related practices, but we cannot avoid conflicts for every student. Because of this, we have an agreement with the athletic/cheer coaches and other clubs to share time to give students the opportunity to still make their obligations.

Before school sectional practices: 7:00 am-7:50 am

After school sectional practices: 3:55 pm-4:45 pm

Important Note: In order to be ready to practice at the appointed time, students should arrive at least 5 minutes early to set up their instrument and music.

The director should be contacted through email(Charms) or Remind prior to the sectional practice in the event of a tardy or absence. The following will occur if the student is absent unexcused:

- 1) Sectional grade will be affected.
- 2) Lose his/her chair

End of Year Auditions

At the end of each year, all 6th and 7th grade students must perform an audition for the directors. The audition determines the students' placement in band for the following year and counts as a part of their final playing grade.

The audition consists of:

- 2 major scales (chosen by the directors)
- chromatic scale
- prepared music selected by the directors (distributed in April)

Audition results for concert, symphonic, and honor band placement will be posted by the end of school (date TBD). Chair try-outs will be held at the beginning of the next school year.

Criteria

The following is the selection criteria for the Concert, Symphonic, or Honor Band:

- 1) How well the student performed in the audition
- 2) Eligibility(grades) from the current school year
- 3) Attitude and behavior
- 4) Work ethic

A student may be moved up to a higher level band during the year under the following conditions:

- 1) If student is first chair
- 2) Has maintained their eligibility
- 3) The group needs the student to improve band instrumentation and sound
- 4) If the director feels the student should be moved to better suit the students' playing ability



Signed Contract

I, _____ and my child, _____, have
(Print parent's name) (Print student's name)

received and read the entire Jim Barnes Middle School Band Handbook, and we agree to abide by the policies and guidelines set forth within the band handbook. I understand that all practices and performances are required and graded as part of the class course. I am aware that my son/daughter will be an enrolled, active member of the Jim Barnes Middle School Band for the entire school year.

Parent's Signature _____

Date: _____

Student's Signature _____

Date: _____