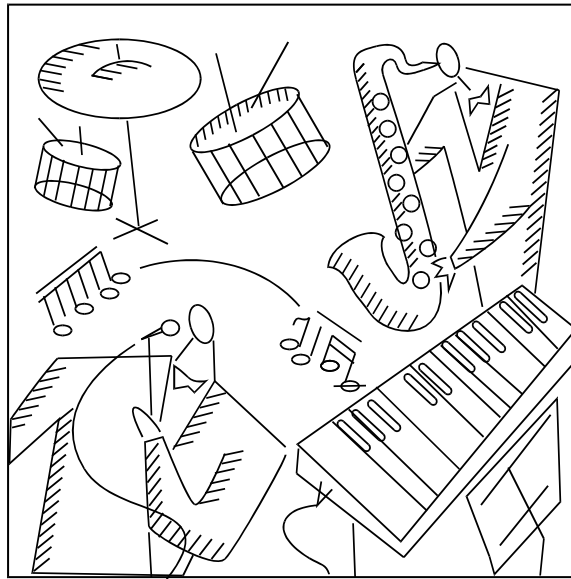


Byron Middle School
Music Department
Handbook
2022-2023



Directors

Amy Harn, Vocal
Matt Maurizio, Instrumental

Byron Middle School
850 N. Colfax Rd.
Byron, IL 61010
815-234-5491



August 2022

Dear Music Students and Parents.....

We want to welcome you to the Byron Music Department. We are honored to be able to be directing the performing groups in the Byron Middle School. Our goal is to help musicians improve their vocal and instrumental skills, expand musical understanding and offer students opportunities to grow personally and musically through music performance. Participating in the music classes offered is a significant part of our school's curriculum.

It is the goal for each music student to:

- ✓ Discover, appreciate and value their talents, talents of others, and beauty of all types of music.
- ✓ Improve skills in using his/her instrument/voice, learn music theory and gain general musical knowledge.
- ✓ Continually improve upon past performances.
- ✓ Experience self-fulfillment by communicating to others through music.
- ✓ Experience music that will bring a lifetime of enjoyment.

We ask that all students give their best effort. With all of us working together, we will have a positive, inspiring, and rewarding year.

Sincerely,

Amy Harn, 6-8 Choir Director
Matt Maurizio, 6-8 Band Director

**BYRON MIDDLE SCHOOL
BAND AND CHORUS HANDBOOK
2022-2023**

CHOIR

The Byron Middle School Choir is a curricular activity for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. Students need not be experienced singers. Each student will be taught vocal skills to improve the present use of their voice. In addition, musical concepts are presented through careful selection of quality choral literature. 7th and 8th grade students may participate in both band and choir on alternating days.

BAND

The Byron Middle School Band is a curricular activity for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. 6th and 7th grade students receive weekly small group instruction on his/her specific instrument. 8th grade students receive small group instruction every other week. Daily large group rehearsals will focus on ensemble performance as well as various musical styles and concepts. 7th and 8th grade students may participate in both band and choir on alternating days.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

The performing groups will each have **required performances** during the school year. Students in BMS band and choir may audition for the ILMEA District Band and Choir Festival each fall. Second semester, all 7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to prepare a solo or ensemble for the Rt. 72 Solo and Ensemble Contest. All 6th grade band students will prepare and perform solos for the Band Holiday Solos each December.

CONCERT DRESS

The way a performing group looks is as important as how it sounds. An audience gets an immediate impression about the attitude, effort and quality of the organization before they sing or play a note. The musicians at Byron Middle School each have a uniform identifying them as part of the group in which they perform.

The music students at BMS will need to obtain or purchase black dress pants, black dress shoes, and black socks. The music department will provide a polo shirt for concert wear only. This shirt may be purchased for a cost of \$22 or borrowed. (If there is a financial hardship, you may borrow black dress pants and black shoes held in an inventory by the music department.)

POLICIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Attendance at Performances:

Attendance at all performances is required. Participation in band and chorus is very much a team effort, and it is mandatory that all musicians perform in all concerts. **In addition, students will not be allowed to leave the performance early.** If there is a viable reason for absence (personal illness, death in the family, etc.), parents should call, send a note, or email prior to the performance in order for the absence to be excused. If this is not possible, a phone call, or note, the next day will be necessary. Students with an unexcused absence will receive an "F" as their concert grade. Students with an excused absence will be required to complete an alternate assignment in correlation with Power Standard #1 (see next page). Since there are so many students in the performing ensembles, transportation difficulties will not qualify as an excused absence. It is important for students to learn to be responsible. Please avoid scheduling activities that conflict with the music calendar. (See last page).

2. Conduct:

Each student is expected to show respect for self, teacher, fellow students and chaperones at all times. This includes listening quietly to instructions and carrying out those instructions in a responsible manner, whether in the classroom, during a concert, or on a field trip. Students are also expected to properly care for their music, folders, instruments, and other equipment. Loss or flagrant destruction of school property will result in disciplinary action. Good conduct is the responsibility of each student.

3. Byron Music Boosters:

Supportive chorus and band parents are an important ingredient in the success of our program. The Byron Music Boosters have provided funding for music trips, summer music camp scholarship, and registration fees for festivals. Volunteer parents are needed to assist with working music fundraisers, making phone calls, and chaperoning. Your time and talents are needed. Contact any director to assist with this worthwhile cause. The Music Parents meet monthly in the Byron High School Music Room.

POWER STANDARDS

Listed below are the Byron CUSD #226 Music Power Standards for all of the performance-based classes, including bands and choirs.

Power Standard #1: The learner will be able to perform in a public setting with expression and accuracy, alone and with others, a varied repertoire representing diverse genres, culture and styles in music literature.

Power Standard #2: The learner will be able to create music using improvisational and compositional techniques in small and large ensembles.

Power Standard #3: The learner will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the historic and cultural context of the performance literature.

Power Standard #4: The learner will be able to understand the system, vocabulary, theory, and the conventions necessary to read and notate music.

Power Standard #5: The learner will be able to analyze and evaluate the quality and effectiveness of their own and others' performances by applying specific criteria.

Power Standard #6: The learner will be able to demonstrate appropriate rehearsal, ensemble, and audience skills.

GRADES

A grade for chorus and band is given at the end of each semester. The grade is based on skills assessed in rehearsals, performance at required concerts, and written work done in class. Grades for band students will also include small group lesson grades. Since performance and skills are the major component of the musical experience, grades will be lowered for unexcused absences.

CLASSROOM SKILLS

Certain skills will be expected of students each and every day in class. These will be graded by the teacher on a weekly basis, with a definitive grade at the end of each semester. These skills are outlined below:

Ensemble Skills	Rehearsal Skills	Audience Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intonation• Balance• Blend	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Body Posture• Breathing• Tone• Technique• Class Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen without disrupting• Respond appropriately• Hands to self• Respect classroom• Actively observe

GRADING PRACTICES

Students' grades can be placed into two categories:

Formative assessment: Designed to provide direction for improvement during the course of a learning sequence

-Accounts for **20%** of a student's grade

-Examples: Worksheets of the Week (WOWs), skills grades, sight singing

Summative assessment: Designed to make a judgment about what a student knows and is able to do at the end of a learning sequence

-Accounts for **80%** of a student's grade

-Examples: Quarterly WOW assessments, quarterly skills grades, performances, band lessons

BMS BAND

PERFORMANCE DATES 2022-2023

Please put these dates on your calendar so that conflicts can be avoided.
 If you have any questions, please contact me at (815) 234-5491 X 257
Dates and times may be subject to change

Date	Time	Event	Participants	Status
Wednesday, October 5	N/A	ILMEA Audition Video Submission Deadline	7 th , 8 th grade band students	Optional
Wednesday, October 12	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	8 th Gr./HS Marching Band Rehearsal @ HS Stadium	8 th grade band students	Required
Friday, October 14	About 7:15 p.m.	8 th Gr./HS Marching Band Performance	8 th grade band students	Required
Friday, November 11	8:15 a.m.	Byron Middle School Veterans Day Program	8 th grade band students	Required
Saturday, November 19	All day	ILMEA Music Festival DeKalb High School	Selected 7 th , 8 th band students	Optional
Thursday, December 8	6 th – 6:30 p.m. 7 th /8 th – 7:30 p.m.	BAND Holiday Concert BMS Theater	6 th , 7 th , 8 th grade band students	Required
December 12-20	6 th Grade Band class time	6 th Grade Holiday Solos BMS Band Room	All 6 th grade band students	Required
Saturday, February 4	All day	Rt.72 Solo/Ensemble Contest @ TBA	7 th , 8 th grade band students	Optional
Wednesday, February 15	6 th /7 th – 6:30 p.m. 8 th /HS – 7:30 p.m.	BAND Pops Concert BMS Theater	6 th , 7 th , 8 th grade band students	Required
March/April	2 weeks	Music Department Cookie Dough Fundraiser	All Students	Encouraged
Wednesday, April 12	Varies for each group	Rt.72 Organizational Festival – BMS Theater	7 th , 8 th grade band students	Required
Wednesday, April 19	After School	8 th Grade Solo Festival BMS Fine Arts Wing	8 th grade band students	Required
Saturday, April 22	7:30 p.m.	Jazz Band Cabaret Night Cornerstone Church	MS Jazz Band students	Required - Jazz
Tuesday, May 2	6 th /Jazz – 6:30 pm 7 th /8 th – 7:30 p.m.	BAND Spring Concert BMS Theater	6 th , 7 th , 8 th grade bands	Required
Friday, May 19	All day	8 th Grade Band/Choir Six Flags Great America	8 th grade band students	FUN!!!!

Please check my website frequently for classroom updates and documents:
www.byronmiddleschoolband.weebly.com

Please sign up for text message reminders. Text the following code to 81010:

6th grade: @bms6grband

7th grade: @bms7grband

8th grade: @bms8grband

BMS CHOIR PERFORMANCE DATES 2022-2023

Please put these dates on your calendar so that conflicts can be avoided.
If you have any questions, please contact me at (815) 234-5491 X 257
Dates and times may be subject to change

Date	Time	Event	Participants	Status
Monday, Oct 3	6:30 PM	CHOIR Fall Concert BMS Theater	6 th , 7 th , 8 th grade choirs	Required
Wednesday, Oct 5	TBA	ILMEA Auditions-virtual	6 th , 7 th , 8 th grade	optional
Saturday, November 19	All day	ILMEA Music Festival DeKalb High School	Selected 6 th , 7 th , 8 th grade	Optional
Monday, December 12	6:30 p.m.	CHOIR Holiday Concert BMS Theater	6 th , 7 th , 8 th grade	Required
Saturday, February 4	TBA	Rt.72 Solo/Ensemble Contest @ TBA	6 th , 7 th , 8 th grade	Optional
Wednesday, April 12	Varies for each group	Rt.72 Organizational Festival – BMS	7 th , 8 th grade	Required
Tuesday, May 16	6:30 p.m.	CHOIR Spring Concert BMS Theater	6 th , 7 th , 8 th grade choirs	Required
Friday, May 19	All day	8 th Grade Band/Choir Trip Six Flags Great America	8 th grade	FUN!!!!

Please sign up for text message reminders. Text the following code to 81010:

6th grade: @bms6ch

7th grade: @bms7ch

8th grade: @byron8ch

We have read and agree to abide by the Byron Middle School Music Handbook for the 2022-2023 school year. This year's concert dates are on our calendar.

Performance dates and times may be subject to change

Student printed name

6 7 8 Band Choir
Grade – Circle One Class – Please Circle

Student signature

Date

Parent/Guardian printed name

Parent/Guardian **email** address

Parent/Guardian signature

Additional Parent/Guardian **email** address

Parent phone number

Directors will use email as a means for frequent updates about classroom activities and group performances

_____ I am willing to be a parent volunteer for various events during the year (i.e. Organizational Contest chaperone, photographer at concerts, fundraiser help, etc.)

_____ I am willing to sit with my child's ensemble during the concert to help supervise behavior.

Detach this page, sign, and return by Friday, August 26th.