



Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School Bands

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January 17, 2012

Dear 8th Grade Band Parents,

As we begin scheduling for the 2012-2013 school year, we would like to inform you of the audition process for the high school concert bands (please note that, by scheduling band, **all 9th Grade students will automatically be members of the Marching Bees**). In the concert band program, there are currently four bands: the Concert Band (grade 9), the two Symphonic Bands (grades 10-12), and the Wind Ensemble (grades 9-12, auditioned).

Next year, we are planning something new and exciting! In an effort to provide a greater variety of opportunities for our students, so that every child can find both **challenge and success** at a level appropriate for their development, we are preparing to schedule all students into one of the following 9-12 ensembles in 2012-2013*:

- **Wind Ensemble** (Class AA or A)
- **Concert Winds** (Class B)
- **Symphonic Gold Band** (Class C)
- **Symphonic Crimson Band** (Class C)

The letters "AA," "A," "B," and "C" refer to the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) system of band classification. Class AA is the most difficult music, and Class C is the least difficult.

There will be two sets of audition music: One for Wind Ensemble, and one for Concert Winds/Symphonic Band. **Every student will audition**, using their choice of one of these sets of music (students who audition for Wind Ens. will also be considered for the Concert Winds /Symphonic Bands).

Auditions for 8th graders will begin on **Wednesday, January 25th**.
(This assessment will also serve as a **Reseating Audition** for the current year.)
The **grading rubric** can be found on the band website: www.bbhsband.com

Results will be posted in time for students to indicate the appropriate class on their '12-'13 schedule. This audition is the primary determining factor in students' ensemble placement for next year. However, the Directors reserve the right to adjust placement based on effort, attitude, and improvement throughout the remainder of this year, as well as following chair placement auditions in the fall.

We look forward to your sons and daughters becoming a part of the excitement and artistry of the BBHHS Bands! In the coming months, you will receive much more information about what is in store for next year. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jason Wyse

*Because this is a slight change from what has been done in the past, there is the possibility that some unforeseen scheduling challenge may render this model impractical for the coming school year. If that is the case, we will maintain our current model, and incoming 9th grade students will all be scheduled for **Concert Band** (or Wind Ensemble, if selected by audition). Although we have done a great deal of research, we will not fully know the viability of this arrangement until we begin to run schedules in February. We will be sure to communicate details as they are known.