

Bert Lynn Music Corps Handbook and Contract

2016-2017

Mrs. Katie Banim, Director

September, 2016

Dear Music Parents and Students:

I am very pleased to welcome you back to the Bert Lynn Music Corps. Please take the time to review the following information for all policies and procedures regarding participation in Bert Lynn Music Corps Classes. I look forward to working with all students and parents this year, and welcome you to contact me with any questions you have. Email is always the best way to get in touch with me. I am usually pretty quick to respond, and because my room is really busy and loud, it's very hard to talk on the phone or in person. If you need to meet with me in person, please make arrangements with me beforehand.

Please sign and return the last page of this document indicating that you've read and agree to the policies outlined in this handbook. Due for all students no later than Tuesday, September 13.

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Bert Lynn Music Corps Class Descriptions

Beginning Band

Beginning Band is for all 6th grade band students, regardless of experience. In addition, 7th and 8th grade students without previous band experience are welcome to join Beginning Band. In this class, we will begin by exploring and choosing instruments for those students with no instrument experience. Please look for additional information to come home soon regarding getting an instrument, but please do not acquire an instrument before then. If your student played in Elementary School, they can continue on that instrument and will be working on more advanced techniques.

Concert Band

Concert Band is for 7th grade band students who participated in band previously. We will continue the techniques developed last year, and expand our performance repertoire to include a variety of music which will advance students' skills.

Symphonic Band

Symphonic Band is our most advanced band class at Bert Lynn, consisting of 8th grade experienced band students. This class will focus on preparing for performances and festivals on a high level, as well as prepare the students for participation in band at the high school level.

Beginning Chorus

Beginning Chorus is for any 6th grade student interested in singing. Students will learn basics of proper vocal production, develop an understanding of musical theory and reading, and prepare for performances while learning a variety of musical styles in 2-parts.

Advanced Chorus

Advanced Chorus is for 7th and 8th grade chorus students. Students will continue the vocal production techniques learned in previous chorus, continue learning musical theory and note reading, and prepare for performances and festivals using three-part repertoire.

COMMON CORE ARTS STANDARDS: **Create, Perform, Reflect, Connect**

1. Create

Creating music is our number one daily task. Every time we play our instruments or sing in class, we are creating music. Students are responsible for making sure that every moment of classroom rehearsal time is focused on creating music. Therefore, students are expected to adhere to the following classroom rules:

Respect – Be on time every day ready to work by having all proper materials for class, including a pencil, folder, instrument for band students (including all required supplies). Students are also to respect the director and classmates by not talking or playing while someone is talking or questions are being asked. Musical instruments are not to be touched by anyone except the owner, and all instruments and music are to be put away neatly after class.

- **Detentions can be given for:**
 - *Leaving your instrument out after class
 - *Touching percussion equipment or anyone else's instrument
 - *Not having instrument or proper supplies 3 times in one quarter
- **Tardy Policy**
Students must be in the room when the bell rings or they will be marked tardy. Tardy consequences will follow school policies.
- **Cell Phone/Electronics Policy**
Use of cell phones and electronics are not allowed in the classroom. Phones should be in the full OFF position or secured in the student's locker. Violation of this policy can result in lowered participation grade, lowered citizenship grade, and/or detention.
- **Gum/Food/Drink Policy**
No only is gum not allowed in my classroom, it is not allowed at Bert Lynn. Any student chewing gum in class can receive an after school detention without a warning. Water bottles will be allowed, but Gatorade, juice, etc. is not allowed. **Gum = Detention (no warning)**

Focus - Do not consider rehearsal time spent by other members of the group as unimportant to you. Rehearsal is not the time to do homework, chat with your friends, etc. It is time to accomplish the goals of the ensemble, and your full attention and dedication should be put towards attaining those goals. Expect frequent stops and repeats during rehearsal as this is necessary and a sign of progress. Don't complain because it's not going to change!

2. Perform

The Bert Lynn Music Corps are performance-based classes, so attendance is mandatory to all practices and performances. As a member of the Bert Lynn Music Corps, you are making a commitment to all performances held outside of the school day. We will be performing at numerous events throughout the year, including a winter concert in December, the West Area Choral Music Festival in March (Advanced Chorus Only), the West Area Instrumental Music Festival in May (Symphonic Band only), and a Spring Concert in June. As has become tradition in our program, we will also be attending a Forum Festival in the spring, which is a fun, judged event and theme park visit. Please see the Performance Schedule on the next page, and understand that these dates can change. I will make certain that parents are notified well in advance of any and all upcoming performances. And you can always check current information on our website at <http://bertlynnmusic.org/>. Students are only required to attend the events which their particular group is performing in, however they can always attend other concerts to support the program (and get extra credit...see page 4!)

❖ **Missed Performance Make-up**

Because performances are our assessments of progress in this class, students can make up points lost for missed performances as long as Mrs. Banim is notified BEFORE the concert start time. Students must complete a Missed Performance Make-Up Assignment when a performance is missed for any reason. This includes absences from the Winter or Spring concert, Area Festivals, and Forum Festivals. Please see the "Missed Performance Make-Up Assignment" within this packet for more information.

3. Reflect

Reflecting and evaluating musical styles and performances allow the students to dig deeper into the music, what it means, and how it applies to the world around us. In addition, it will allow them to critique performances by their group and others to identify and fix mistakes, and indicate what is being done well. Reflection is a daily task for us as we analyze how to perform our music better through listening and discussions. In addition, all Music Corps students will be doing two larger Reflection Assignments this year, one at the beginning of Quarter 3, and one at the end of Quarter 4 after our Spring Concerts. These are a larger portion of the quarter grades, so attention to detail is important.

Bert Lynn Music Corps Performance Schedule

Students will be informed of exact times, places, and schedules closer to the concerts. Most performance will be in the evenings unless otherwise noted. Performances are worth 100 points, and any absence from a performance must be made up, as long as Mrs. Banim is notified in advance. Please schedule trips/vacations around these dates.

Friday, October 21 – Home Football Game with West High Entertainment Unit – 8th Grade Band and students interested in Color Guard only, 6:00 PM report time

Monday, December 5 – Winter Chorus Concert – West High Pavilion 7:00 PM – All Choirs

Monday, December 12 – Winter Band Concert – West High Gymnasium 7:00 PM – All Bands

Monday, March 20 – West Area Choral Festival – West High Pavilion 7:00 PM – Advanced Chorus

Friday, April 28– Forum Festival/Disneyland – Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Advanced Chorus (All Day)

Tuesday, May 23 - West Area Instrumental Music Festival - West High Gym 7:00 PM – Symphonic Band

Friday, May 26 – Forum Festival/Knott’s Berry Farm - Beginning Band and Beginning Chorus (All Day)

Tuesday, June 13 – Spring Spectacular! Band and Chorus Concert – BLMS Time TBA – All Music Corps students

Grading

Grading in band is based on a total points system. Points will be given for the following categories:

1. Rehearsal	100 points/semester
2. Weekly Assignments	10 Points each
3. Performances	100 points/performance
4. Music (Playing) Exams	Usually 20 points each – please see Guidelines for Performance Exams
5. Reflection Assignment	50 points each (Quarters 3 and 4)
6. Other Assignments	Various

Weekly Assignments

All weekly assignments are due every Friday. Students are to make sure first and last names are on all assignments. Papers without names will not receive credit.

Band & Chorus – Practice records/Music Theory

Late Assignment Policy

All weekly assignments are due by 3:10 PM on the day they are due. Because of the large number of students that are in this program, late weekly assignments will not be accepted unless the student is absent the entire day that it’s due (Friday). In that case, assignments may be turned in on the first day the student returns to school, and must be given directly to Mrs. Banim (not into homework box!) Larger Reflection Assignments will be accepted up to 3 days late at 75% credit.

Performance Attire

Performances are our “tests” and a big chance to show off to our parents and audience. Therefore, it is expected that students dress appropriately for performances by wearing our Music Corps polo shirts (same as past years) with nice black pants (no jeans, yoga pants, leggings, etc). We will be placing an order for those shirts later this fall for those students who need one. If you chose not to purchase one, students can borrow one from the school based on availability. Remember, we want to give a mature performance that showcases the best of Bert Lynn students, so it is important to always look as good as we intend to sound!

Fundraising

Because we do many things outside of school, fundraising is an integral part of our program. Therefore, we ask that each Music Corps student raise money for their individual Forum Festival costs through fundraising and/or donations. We are planning multiple fundraisers throughout the year to help offset costs, starting with the Skechers Pier to Pier Friendship Walk. I highly encourage all students to participate to the fullest extent possible to help provide for this excellent program! A separate handout will be sent home soon regarding how you can help us out.

Bert Lynn Music Corps Association

The Bert Lynn Music Corps Association (BLMCA) is a non-profit parent booster organization that supports our music program. Through BLMCA efforts, we raise money through fundraisers and donations to cover costs associated with the Forum Music Festival trips, sheet music for class, and instrument repair and maintenance. Parents with children participating in Bert Lynn Music Corps classes are automatically granted membership in BLMCA. Look for more information to come home soon regarding how you can help us out in fundraising, donations, and as a chaperone for off-campus events.

Home Practice & Playing Exams

In order to help students be successful in learning their music and/or instruments, all students are expected to practice at least 20 minutes 4 times per week outside of class. Remember, the more you practice, the easier (and more fun) music becomes!

Students will be responsible for turning in a Practice Record every Friday for weekly practice. The first one is due **Friday, September 16** for Concert and Symphonic Bands and Choirs (Beginning Band TBA). See the attached Practice Record form for more information. Students will be given a new practice record form every Friday, along with their weekly Theory Assignment (NEW this year).

Students will also be given periodic Performance Exams on required music. Students will be given sufficient time to practice material for a playing exam before they are tested. Please see the attached “Guidelines for Performance Exams” for a grading rubric for Playing Exams.

The classroom will also be open most days at lunch for students to come in to practice, ask for extra help, etc.

School Equipment Policy (Band Students Only)

Bert Lynn Middle School owns a limited number of band instruments for student use. The majority of school-owned instruments are the larger and more expensive instruments. When school instruments are issued to students as needs exist and in the best interest of the student and ensembles, students and parents will be asked to sign a contract checking out that instrument for the year. Students must supply their own reeds, oil, care equipment, etc., and are responsible for any repairs occurred during use.

Extra Credit (Hey....GOOD STUFF!)

Students may earn extra credit in this class for various outside of school learning. This would include (but not limited to):

1. Attending a public musical performance of any kind. Students need to write a one page summary of what they saw and heard, and what they liked and didn't like. Please include a program or parent note verifying attendance of the performance.
2. Performing (vocal or instrumental) outside of school – Church, recitals, etc. Please have your parents simply write a note to Mrs. Banim for credit.
3. Preparing an appropriate level solo from music available on SmartMusic, and record and send it electronically to Mrs. Banim.

Guidelines for Performance Exams

When testing this year, the following rubric will be used to determine a testing score. This is to ensure fairness across the curriculum.

Standardized Rubric for a Music Testing Score out of 20 Possible Points

Score	Standard
20	A score of 20 means that the piece was performed near perfectly. All rhythms were accurate, the notes were played correctly, and dynamics, articulations, and style were performed throughout.
18-19	A score of 18-19 means that the piece was performed very well. All rhythms were correct, and there were very few missed articulations and dynamics. There were few mistakes in notes, and it was stylistically accurate.
15-17	A score of 15-17 means that the piece was performed well. Rhythms and notes were mostly correct, especially in important sections, and articulations and dynamics were played closed to what was written. The style is present.
12-14	A score of 12-14 means that the piece was performed satisfactory. Rhythms were misplayed in some areas, and articulation and dynamics were a little off. It lacks some stylistic elements, and notes were missed.
9-11	A score of 9-11 means that the piece was performed substandard. Important rhythms were missed, and many elements of dynamics and articulation were left out. There was little knowledge of style, and frequent missed notes.
6-8	A score of 6-8 means that the piece was performed poorly. There were problems with many major rhythms, and crucial aspects of dynamics and articulations were neglected. There was no knowledge of style, and many missed notes.
4-5	A score of 4-5 means that the piece was not performed in its entirety. Large portions were neglected, and those that were performed lacked accuracy in rhythm, articulation, dynamics, and pitch.
1-3	A score of 1-3 means that the piece was attempted, but without success. An effort was made to play some part of the piece, and the performer was not prepared to test.
0	A zero means that the piece was not tested within the given timeframe. A zero is only given if there was no attempt made on the part of the performer to test the piece, regardless of whether or not they were capable of doing so.

This scale will be used consistently except under special circumstances where the musician who is testing has been limited by their experience (how long they've been playing) with the instrument, or has a condition that limits their ability to play the instrument.

Dates Covered in this chart: (SAMPLE) September 9 – September 15

Practice Record Grading (5 Points Total)

Weekly Practice: You are expected to practice at least 20 minutes 4 times per week. Keep your practice focused!

Example of a Good 20 Minute Practice Session (Practice Smart!)

1. Warm up/Stretches – 5-10 Minutes
2. Directed Practice on a specific song or exercise – 10 minutes
**Focus on specific sections or details. Don't just run straight through!
3. End with "something fun" – 5 minutes

Write in the number of minutes you practiced on which days, then write what your main focus was.

<u>Day</u>	<u>What was your focus of this practice Session?</u>
<u>Friday</u>	
<u>Saturday</u>	
<u>Sunday</u>	
<u>Monday</u>	
<u>Tuesday</u>	
<u>Wednesday</u>	
<u>Thursday</u>	

DUE EVERY FRIDAY – LATE PRACTICE RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED *

* If you are absent ALL DAY on Friday and cannot turn in your practice record, it will be accepted on the FIRST DAY you return to school. Please turn it in directly to Mrs. Banim, and not into the homework box. Please write "Absent on Friday" on the top to remind me that you were absent.

Bert Lynn Music Corps
MISSED PERFORMANCE MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENT
This cover sheet MUST be turned in with your assignment

Student Name _____

Music Class Period _____

Date of Missed Concert _____

Was Mrs. Banim notified by parents before the concert start time? _____

(Mrs. Banim must be notified of absence prior to concert in order to complete make-up assignment)

A concert performance represents weeks of work, and your make-up assignment should reflect the same attention to detail. Be very specific and complete for full credit consideration. Choose between the 3 options below.

Written Assignment Guidelines

1. All make-up assignments are **due within two weeks** of the missed performance
2. There is a separate make-up assignment for each performance missed.
3. If no assignment is submitted, a “zero” will be entered for that performance
4. Students should be sure that all text is in their own words and is edited for sentence structure, punctuation, and spelling. Paragraphs should be 4-6 sentences in length and have a clear topic.
5. Be sure to present a clearly defined and well-researched topic.
6. Make-up assignments must include a bibliography citing sources used in your research.
7. Specific details:
 - Needs to be at least 3 pages in length (not including cover page)
 - MLA format
 - If typed:
 - Double spaced
 - 12 point Times New Roman font
 - If handwritten:
 - Single spaced
 - Printed legibly

Make-up Assignment Option One

- Research one of the pieces performed by your ensemble for this performance.
- Things to include:
 - Information of the composer and/or arranger;
 - Elements of musical style, form, melody, rhythm, and techniques;
 - History of the piece: Was it commissioned by another school? Where was the first performance? Was it influenced by another piece of music, or another style of music?
 - Discuss in detail what the piece means to you, what it makes you think of and/or feel when you listen to it.
- Make sure to include a bibliography listing sources used in your research.

Make-up Assignment Option Two

- Research one of the following Music History Eras: Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Twentieth Century, and choose one major composer to explore from that era.
- Things to discuss:
 - Dates of the Music History Era and specific styles of music found during that time;
 - Basic biographical information about the composer you chose including when he/she lived, where they lived, what kind of music they composed, etc.
 - Select one piece from that composer, listen to and analyze that piece: what are the elements of musical style, form, melody, rhythm, and techniques? Discuss where the first performance was, whether it was influenced by another piece of music or something in history, etc.
 - History and musical elements if the piece: Where was the first performance? Was it influenced by another piece of music or another style of music? Etc.
 - Discuss in detail what the piece means to you, what it makes you think of and/or feel when you listen to it.
- Make sure to include a bibliography listing sources used in your research.

Make-up Assignment Option Three

- Perform all of the pieces from the missed performance for your classmates.
- You may perform along with a recording if available, but you must be heard to be graded. Chorus students can also choose to perform with piano accompaniment if available.
- Assessment will be how well you know your part and can perform it as if it was at the regular performance.
- Your performance for your class must be arranged with Mrs. Banim right after the concert, and completed **within 1 week of the missed performance.**
- **3 days after your performance:** Turn in a written evaluation of your performance (at least one page). What did you do well? What could you have done better? Why?

BERT LYNN MUSIC CORPS HANDBOOK CONTRACT

Please sign and return to Mrs. Banim by Tuesday, September 13 (10 points)

By signing below I verify that I have read and understand this Music Corps Handbook and accept the duties and responsibilities of supporting my Child with the participation in any or all groups in the Bert Lynn Music Corps. We have read and understand all rules and requirements for the Bert Lynn Music Program, and will make every effort to have a successful and enjoyable year.

Print Student's Name _____ Music Class Period _____

Parent's E-mail _____

(I like to communicate with parents through email. If you provide an email for me, I will email you any communications that I send home with the students. In addition, I will continue to send Weekly Bulletins which will give you valuable information on events happening in class. Please feel free to email me questions and concerns at any time throughout the year. It's the best way to get a hold of me! Also, we will email you information from our Bert Lynn Music Corps Association, our Parent Booster group.)

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Please also see the note and Permission Slip from Cal State University Dominguez Hills from our student teacher, Miss Rodriguez on the other side and sign accordingly. Please contact Mrs. Banim if you have any questions regarding this.