Up-Coming BMS Marching Band Events

WELCOME to October! Our music program continues to move forward at a fast pace … the BMS 7th & 8th Grade Marching Band has a busy marching season ahead! They will participate in the SHS Homecoming Parade on Monday, October 7, the Old West Weekend Parade Competition on Saturday, October 19 and the Veterans Day Parade on Monday, November 11.

We are extremely PROUD of these musical ambassadors for our band, school and community (We are marching 113 students this year!). All of the parades are required performances and we need every member in attendance to be at our very best!

The Old West Weekend Parade Competition will be our only judged event … the bands are judged on their marching (rank and file alignment, posture, step precision, and instrument position), their playing (balance, tone quality, intonation, precision, tempo stability, and dynamics), and their appearance (uniform tidiness, players' personal appearance, and instrument cleanliness).

The judges rate the bands on the following scale:

♦ SUPERIOR—Division I
♦ EXCELLENT—Division II
♦ GOOD—Division III
♦ FAIR—Division IV
♦ PARTICIPANT—Division V

“This Is What We Do” The Value of Music Education

Over the years, music educators have carefully tracked SAT test scores of students involved in music classes compared to those who were not. The statistics highlight a dramatic variance that cannot be ignored:

“Students with coursework/experience in music performance scored 52 points higher on the verbal portion of the SAT and 37 points higher on the math portion than students with no coursework or experience in the arts. And a difference in scores increased with the number of years involved. Those who studied music four or more years scored a combined 101 points higher on the SAT than students with no coursework or experience in the arts.” Profiles of SAT and Achievement Test Takers, The College Board (1997)

The benefits of music study extend far beyond the performance. Please join with us to guarantee a promising future for all the young musicians in our program by encouraging them to continue their study of music.

CONGRATULATIONS! to Katherine Reisig (BMS Band Alumni & SHS Band Member) - National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist
7th & 8th Grade Jazz Band

The BMS Jazz Band is open to all 7th and 8th Grade Band students. The Jazz Band rehearses before school from 7:00 a.m. to 7:40 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

We have only a few rehearsals to prepare for each concert and need to have every member in attendance at each rehearsal to do our very best. Jazz Band will begin promptly at 7:00 a.m. ... Students should ENTER the building through the NORTH ANNEX DOORS (Mrs. Koch will be there from 6:50-7:10 a.m. to check the students in.) If a student is ill or cannot attend a rehearsal for some reason, please contact Mr. Koch by e-mail at mkoch@sbps.net.

**NEW CONCERT DATE/TIME:**

The BMS Jazz Band concert originally scheduled for Thursday, October 3 has been POSTPONED.

The BMS Jazz Band will now present their Fall Concert on Tuesday, October 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the BMS Cafetorium.

Mark Your Calendars

Monday, Oct. 7  Homecoming Parade
(7th & 8th Band) - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 19  Old West Weekend Parade Competition
(7th & 8th Band) - TBA (Usually 10 a.m.)

Tuesday, Oct. 22  BMS Jazz Band Fall Concert
(7/8 Jazz Band & Percussion Ensemble) - 6:30 pm @ BMS Cafetorium

Monday, Nov. 11  Veteran's Day Parade
(7th & 8th Band) - 11 a.m.

7th & 8th Grade Percussion Ensemble

The BMS Percussion Ensemble is open to all 7th and 8th Grade percussion students. This group rehearses before school from 7:00 a.m. to 7:40 a.m. on Monday mornings.

We have only a few rehearsals to prepare for each concert and need to have every member in attendance at each rehearsal to do our very best. Percussion Ensemble will begin promptly at 7:00 a.m. ... Students should ENTER the building through the NORTH ANNEX DOORS (Mrs. Koch will be there from 6:50-7:10 a.m. to check the students in.) If a student is ill or cannot attend a rehearsal for some reason, please contact Mr. Koch by e-mail at mkoch@sbps.net.

**The Percussion Ensemble will perform at the up-coming BMS Jazz Band Concert on Tuesday, October 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the BMS Cafetorium.**
THANK YOU!

Bearcat “Fan Flag” Fall Fundraiser

Our Scottsbluff Bearcat “Fan Flag” Fundraiser ran just two short weeks (August 12-26) and we were able to sell all of our stock!

Thanks to all of the Bearcat Fans, Community Members, School Counselors, Teachers, Band Parents, & Band Fans, we were able to raise $230 for the BMS Band program.

We appreciate your support!

A message from the director …

A Thanksgiving Message of Gratitude

The Thanksgiving season serves as a strong reminder that we have much to be thankful for in our music program:

- From a community vantage point, we must be thankful for local leaders who are solid supporters of music in our schools; they realize music education offers highlighted performance in all aspects of life and they are outspoken advocates of music education.
- Sincere THANKS are extended to our administrators at BMS, Mrs. Jana Mason, Dr. Bree Rock, and Mr. Jason Blanco. We continue to enjoy an ongoing open dialogue focusing on the role of music as part of a complete curriculum offering.
- From a personal standpoint, THANK YOU, PARENTS! Your keen interest, loyal support and active participation are the essential elements of our successful past, our exciting present and our promising future.
- Collectively, we must extend THANKS to the young musicians. It is a privilege and an honor to work with the finest students at Bluffs Middle School. These music makers of today are preparing to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Yes, music does make the difference, and we are thankful that so many students have chosen to be a part of our musical family. The disciplines learned in music classes reinforce a standard of excellence that is required for success in all of life.

As we approach our holiday season, I extend a sincere note of thanks to everyone who has made it possible for our music program to thrive and prosper. Your investment of time, effort and energy is the key to our success.

With gratitude,

Mr. Koch

Director of BMS Bands
The Importance of At Home Practice

The Bluffs Middle School Band Program prides itself on its TRADITION OF MUSICAL EXCELLENCE. Over the years, the members of various band ensembles have worked hard to continue to develop their individual level of musicianship. In doing so, their combined efforts have yielded many fine performances and musical memories.

It becomes easy for all of us to become a little complacent. Taking the success of our program for granted could easily lead to a decline in the quality of our performances. I realize that the band plays a different role in each of our student’s lives. While some of our members find participation in band at the top of their priority list, others enjoy their participation as part of their total educational experience. Regardless of priority, the quality of the BMS Bands is reflected through the total output of all the members. Our Band is like a TEAM, a family and we need each and every student musician to contribute to their fullest potential.

One of the most important aspects to successful Band participation is the element of home practice. By taking a few minutes each and every night, students can reinforce the musical material learned in rehearsal. They can work on various technical aspects at their own pace and continue to refine their skills and improve their technique and musical tone quality. Students who practice regularly at home tend to get the most pleasure out of Band participation. They look forward to rehearsals and performances and take a great deal of PRIDE in performing to the best of their abilities. These students help to insure that the BMS Band will continue its TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE.

These auditions will need to be recorded after school during the week of October 7. I will have a sign-up sheet on my office window with available recording times. (They need to be submitted by Friday, October 11.)

Looking forward to seeing you at Parent/Teacher Conferences on Wednesday, Oct. 23 & Thursday, Oct. 24 from 8 am to 8 pm)