Welcome to Bill Reed Middle School Orchestra families! You will learn how to play and perform on a stringed instrument, make new friends, and experience the many benefits of participating in instrumental music. We are very proud of our Orchestra Program at Bill Reed, and welcome back old friends as well as new students.

Course Descriptions

6th GRADE ORCHESTRA (Spring 2022 semester)
Beginning class instruction in violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students progress through the sequence of first year string technique via a skill-based curriculum. Opportunities exist for large and small group performance and numerous supplemental activities. Emphasis is placed on proper instrument setup, tone production, music literacy, and basic ensemble skills. Students will perform music at a Grade 1 level. Participation in one group concert per quarter is required for a grade.

*Sound Innovations Book 1, fees will cover the cost of your book.*

7th GRADE ORCHESTRA
Continuing class instruction in violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students continue to progress through the sequence of string technique. While stress is placed on orchestral performing skills, opportunities exist for solo and small ensemble performance. Students will perform music at a Grade 1.5-3 music. Participation in district-sponsored clinics and festivals as well as performing in one group concert per quarter is required.

Class books: *Essential Elements for Strings Book 2 AND All For Strings Theory Book 1.*

8th GRADE ORCHESTRA
Further class instruction in violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students continue to progress through the sequence of string technique. While stress is placed on orchestral performing skills, opportunities exist for solo and small ensemble performance. Students will perform music at a Grade 3-Grade 4 level. Participation in district-sponsored contests, 8th Grade festival with Erwin MS, and recruitment tours, as well as performing in one group concert per quarter is required.

Class books: *Essential Technique for Strings Book 3 (Books are covered with the 10$ orchestra fee)*

Honor Orchestra
This group is made up of select students from all three grade levels. Students will perform advanced middle school level music and some high school level music, as well as perform with every orchestra concert and some LISA events. Admission to this group is at the discretion of Ms. Huster based on work habits and willingness to practice. Please contact her for more information as we are getting approval after the pandemic year.

Music will be provided.
Classroom Behavior Expectations

- RESPECT, yourself, others and your instrument.

- BE PREPARED with your instrument, music, and in your seat immediately upon arrival.

- Please use the restroom and get drinks before class to minimize disruptions. You will get a punch card with “oops” passes. Each student is responsible for keeping track of their passes. If more frequent restroom breaks are required, please have a private conversation with Ms. H at the beginning of the year.

- Cell Phones are not allowed to be visible at school, including in students hands. Violation of this will result in confiscation of cell phone, changed passwords, and a variety of bad selfies taken with other teachers. iPads must be stored under chairs and not on music stands. They become a violin crushing missile when this rule is not observed.

- Drinks, food and gum should be enjoyed outside of the classroom.
  Gum is a choking hazard during instrumental music when students are breathing together and focused on music.

Attendance

Classroom attendance policy for Orchestra is the same as for every other class at BRMS. Attendance at all rehearsals is crucial for success of the group as well as for your own musical growth. Students who attend without an instrument will receive a zero for participation for the day, and will be expected to make up the lesson in practice time.

Mandatory concert attendance!

Attendance at concerts is REQUIRED. The concert is your final exam in Orchestra and the experience cannot be made up. Communication with Ms. H is critical. Occasionally activities at BRMS overlap with concert dates and both teachers are aware. Coaches are awesome about releasing kids from practice to attend the performance.

1. Written notices from parents are required for all absences. Verbal or written excuses from students are not accepted.
2. Advance notices are required for all prior commitments (a date already committed to another event when the schedule is announced). Students are expected to arrange work schedules and social calendars to accommodate orchestra events.
3. In case of illness or family emergency, please notify the Ms. H because I care about your family and you as a human. Please follow up with a written note from parents as soon as possible. This is the ONLY category where absences will be excused the same day, or after, the event.
4. Conflicts with religious holidays or individual religious beliefs are considered excused if the teacher is notified in writing by the parent.
5. Parents must encourage students to behave appropriately at all performances. I am up on stage performing with other students. Students who are disruptive will earn a 1 as a work habit grade.

Some performances are optional; please ask about those as we are invited to perform.
Grading

**Academic Grades (SBG):**
- Concerts Preparedness
- Playing tests
- Theory Assignments

**Work Habits Grade:**
- Concert behavior
- Daily attitude and participation
- Preparedness: evidence of practicing, instrument, music, and accessories

**Standards Based Grading Guidelines**

4. Student demonstrates proficiency on all standards with evidence of advanced work.
3. Student demonstrates proficiency on all standards.
2. Student demonstrates proficiency on some standards.
1. Student does not meet the standards—support and interventions are necessary.

There will be one concert per quarter for all grade levels, as well as additional performance opportunities for 7th and 8th graders. All performances are REQUIRED and count as a grade

**Practice Habits**

Students will have in-class or recorded playing exams from week to week to check for understanding and growth. Students will have at least a week’s notice of playing assessments including passages of music to be tested. Students will also be taught proper and efficient practice habits, and will be required to demonstrate them in a variety of mediums, such as written and playing.

**Care of Music**

Each student is expected to maintain a current folder of all music handed out. Keep your folder in your locker or with your case. Always have your folder in class.

**Students who misplace or lose music are expected to pay twenty-five cents per page of music lost to make up for the cost of replacement music. This can add up as students get older and music parts become 3-4 pages per piece!**

**Equipment**

1. Keep instruments in good playing condition and an instrument approved for success.
2. Have rosin, shoulder rests, cello/bass endpin strap, a cleaning cloth, a pencil, good strings, etc.
3. **DO NOT,** for any reason, touch or play an instrument that is not checked out to you. This is for your own protection as well as the school’s. This includes Ms. H’s instruments!
4. Storage is available in the Orchestra room for students who bring their own violins and violas from home. Space will be designated for each grade level. Students may be asked to provide their own locks for the lockers. Lockers are still under construction and it’s unclear when they will be available.
Cello and Bass Rentals

Cellos and basses may be rented from the district at a cost of $40 per school year, $20 over the summer. Rental forms will be sent home in September and are available on the school orchestra website. Your form and payment must be returned to Bill Reed by **August 31, 2021**. If you are shopping for an instrument, I will be happy to assist you in your search. **PLEASE NOTE** there is a limited number of instruments available, and will be rented out on a first come, first serve basis including the required rental form, fees or free and reduced lunch letter.

Concert Dress

Students will get the opportunity to purchase a Bill Reed Middle School Music Department T-shirt that is to be worn for all concerts and performances. Information will be sent home shortly. Please note your student’s t-shirt size and the **$8.00 cost for a shirt** on the last page of this handbook. In addition to the t-shirt, your student will need black slacks or skirt (Past the knees), black shoes, black socks and closed toed shoes (for young ladies).

Instrument Repair

We are very fortunate to have qualified string instrument repair specialists in the Loveland/Fort Collins area. If your instrument becomes damaged or needs routine work or maintenance, contact:

- **Boomer Music**
  - Fort Collins
  - 970-223-2424

- **Tolsma Violins**
  - Loveland
  - 970-443-2472

- **Sol Vista Violins**
  - Lafayette
  - (720) 365-0305

Private Lessons

Private instruction on one’s instrument is the best way to get ahead in orchestra and ensure success in the class. We are fortunate in Northern Colorado to have so many talented and wonderful private teachers. If you or your student is interested in private lessons, Ms. Huster will be happy to provide you with a list of names to contact.

**BRMS Orchestra Calendar 2021-22**

Please put these important dates on your calendar. All events that take place at BRMS are REQUIRED, as are all
festival concerts and opportunities for 8th grade orchestra students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/16</td>
<td>6th Grade transition day</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>BRMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/17</td>
<td>7th/8th Grade First Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>BRMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>Fall Orchestra Concert</td>
<td>6 PM</td>
<td>BRMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/16</td>
<td>Holiday Orchestra Concert</td>
<td>6 PM</td>
<td>BRMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-26-1/29</td>
<td>Ms. Huster @ CMEA Conference</td>
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<td>BRMS</td>
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<td>2/8</td>
<td>8th Grade Festival TBA</td>
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<td>BRMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>March Orchestra Concert</td>
<td>6 PM</td>
<td>BRMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/19</td>
<td>Spring Orchestra Concert</td>
<td>6 PM</td>
<td>BRMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/26</td>
<td>Last Day of School- All Rentals Due Back!</td>
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BRMS- Bill Reed Middle School  LHS- Loveland High School  MVHS-Mountain View HS

There may be additional performances and events that arise during the year, written notice and parent communication will be made available in the event of another activity scheduled.

PLEASE SAVE THIS PAGE FOR YOUR RECORDS AND MAKE SURE YOU WRITE DOWN ALL CONCERT DATES
As a student and member of the orchestra, I have read the Orchestra Handbook and agree to abide by the policies it outlines.

________________________________________  _______________
Student Signature     Date

_________________________________________
Student email address (for communication purposes)

As the parent of this student, I understand the policies my student is expected to follow.

_________________________________________  _______________
Parent Signature     Date

_________________________________________
Parent email address (for communication purposes)

INFORMATION FOR BRMS MUSIC DEPARTMENT T-SHIRT

Student Size (Circle One-All sizes are ADULT sizes)

S    M    L    XL    XXL

Please return this page signed, with your t-shirt size and an $8.00 check made out to BRMS. Please return this to Ms. Huster no later than AUGUST 27, 2022.

The prompt return of this page will count as your student’s first grade of the year.