

# Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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January 29, 2021

Happy Friday BMS families,

A few important reminders for families this weekend. First, band is back for grades 6-8. Please see the letter below, written by Mr. Summerer, that digs into the details!

Next, as you may know, Mrs. Fitch, our reading teacher, left her position at the end of semester 1. We currently have Mrs. Paradise, a fantastic long-term substitute who is certified in 7-12 English, filling in in her place. If you have any questions about reading this year, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Paradise at [kparadise@canterburypublicschools.org](mailto:kparadise@canterburypublicschools.org).

Next, as cold weather settles in and we get more and more snow, please make sure your students are dressing responsibly. If students want to play in the snow during recess they MUST bring in appropriate snow boots that they can change into before recess begins. As always, if you face hardship and need assistance getting boots for your student, please do not hesitate to reach out to our school counselor, Mrs. Zuckerman, at [dzuckerman@canterburypublicschools.org](mailto:dzuckerman@canterburypublicschools.org).

Third, while we have wrapped up iReady testing in our school this week, some students will still need to finish their testing next week. For remote families, please check with your students and make sure they are working hard to finish both their reading and math diagnostic.

Finally, for remote families. Please know that our school is doing its best to support students and our partnership with your family is critical to the success of our remote students. If teachers email or call, please make sure you return their emails or calls so that we can create a dialogue to identify the best ways to support remote learners. Students will always be successful when our school and parents have strong connections and communication.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [gdukette@canterburypublicschools.org](mailto:gdukette@canterburypublicschools.org) with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Thank you all and have a great weekend,

Mr. Dukette

## Baldwin Band Is Back!

I know it took a little while and this year has been challenging, but now we have all that we need in place to ensure a fantastic second half of the year.

Baldwin Middle School Band will open back up starting next week, with our first meeting on Wednesday, February 3rd during Homeroom (information), with a SECOND meeting that Friday, February 5th during Homeroom (test rehearsal). If you are in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade and are interested in being in band this year, feel free to attend! A final roster of Band Members will be posted by the end of the day on that Friday.

Now, I want to be transparently clear about what the expectations are for a band, so let me detail a few things below:

1. Attendance at Band Rehearsal is **ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED**. Three unexcused absences from rehearsals will result in a conference during which we decide if membership continues.
2. The complete band will include students from different cohorts. CDC guidelines are being followed to provide the utmost safety, including separating cohorts at a 12 or more foot distance.
3. All rehearsals culminate in a Spring Concert in late May. This concert will also follow state and CDC guidelines, and may include a Livestream.
4. Band Members are expected to take home and practice their instruments and music weekly, pursuing personal excellence and achievement.
5. Personal instruments should be rented from **Stewart's Music** (Niantic) or **Music and Arts** (West Hartford, East Hartford, Vernon); both have relationships with the school. Members are expected to bring their instruments to school on Band days (the second and third *Red Days* in a week). Students in need of financial assistance with instrument rental should reach out to Mr. Summerer. BMS does not want money to be a barrier to any student playing music.

Our students' safety is our top priority, so we are implementing specific protocols in line with CDC guidelines for performing ensembles.

- Students will be separated into cohorts first, then sections, during every rehearsal.
- Specialty masks (provided by the school for wind instrument players) and regular masks are to be worn at all times.
- 3-6 feet of distance is kept between players of the same cohort, with 12 or more feet between cohorts. With warmer weather, many rehearsals will be moved outside as well.
- Bell covers (provided by the school) for all brass, clarinet, and saxophone players are required.
- Music Folders stay at the school, while take-home folders are sent home; this way a student is never without their music.

Due to the unprecedented nature of this year, our instrumentation is broader this time around. Traditional wind and percussion instruments will be joined by limited guitar and piano options; please take this into consideration if your student is thinking about joining.

And that's it!

Feel free to send any questions or concerns my way. I look forward to building up the band again.

See you there and stay safe.

- Adam Summerer
- Music Director, Baldwin Middle School