



BELLINGHAM MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

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Dear 7th & 8th Grade Parents/Guardians,

Our school year is rapidly coming to a close. We have many performances coming up and are busy preparing lots of great music and learning new concepts. Just as a reminder, the following performance dates should be on your calendar (your students are required to be a part of them):

- Memorial Day Parade - Sunday, May 17, 2015
- Great East Festival - Friday, May 22, 2015 (payments due May 1)
- Spring Concert - Thursday, May 28, 2015 (BHS Auditorium)

We still need some help chaperoning the Parade, about 2-3 people. If you are willing to help, please send contact me immediately.

--- PLEASE RETURN THE ATTACHED PERMISSION SLIP BY **WEDNESDAY, MAY 13** ---

GREAT EAST FESTIVAL

Final payments for this event are due by **Friday, May 1**. Please send payment by check payable to "Bellingham Friends of Music" by then. Attached are more details.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The BMMS Band will be marching in Bellingham's Memorial Day Parade. It begins at BMMS and ends at the Town Common (about one mile). Attached are more details.

SPRING CONCERT

The concert will begin at 6:30 PM in the BHS Auditorium. Students must be at BHS no later than 5:30 PM in usual concert attire. Please come and join us for a great concert! This is our students' final BMMS performance... it should not be missed!

Thank you very much for your support of the music program this year. I believe we have made a lot of great things happen more than previous years, and that is in large part to your continued support. I am looking forward to these end of the year events! If you have any questions or concerns about any of these events, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Memorial Day Parade Information

Sunday, May 17, 2015

Meet at BMMS: 12:30 PM (students may enter Band Room door from outside building, door #11 by parent drop-off area)

Parade begins: 1:00 PM (earlier than previous years)

If the weather looks iffy...

Plan to report to the Middle School rain or shine. When all the students arrive, Mrs. Forte and I will make a decision as to if we will march or not. The parade will only be canceled in the event of thunderstorms; light sprinkles will not cancel the parade. We will also keep the website updated regularly with announcements that might be weather-related.

What about my instrument?

Bring your instrument home from school the previous Friday. Report to the Middle School on Sunday with your instrument assembled and have whoever is picking you up bring your case. You will not need music, because you will have it memorized, but you will want to put your instrument away when the parade is over. Large instruments and percussion equipment can be left at school and will be available on Sunday. We will be able to transport SOME of it back to BMMS. If you can take it yourself, please do.

Parade Time Schedule

Meet at Middle School: 12:30 PM. Students may enter Band Room door from outside building, door #11 by parent drop-off area.

Parade begins: 1:00 PM

Students must be picked up at the Town Common at the conclusion of the parade.

What to Wear for the Parade:

- Jeans (or jean-shorts)
- BMMS Bands T-Shirt. If you don't own one, a black Bellingham shirt will do.
- Comfortable walking shoes (YES sneakers; NO flip-flops or sandals)

Great East Festival Information

The Great East Festival is quickly approaching on Friday, May 22, 2015. Please read through all of this pertinent information that you must know.

ITINERARY - Friday, May 22, 2015 (may change slightly)

7:58 AM - Immediately after homeroom, students report to band room, load bus
8:10 AM - Depart BMMS
9:40 AM - Arrive at Burlington High School, Cambridge St., Burlington, MA
10:20 AM - Band Warmup
10:45 AM - Band Performance, followed by clinic
11:20 AM - Load the bus and depart for Canobie Lake Park (eat lunch on bus)
12:20 PM - Arrive at the park.
2:30 PM - chaperones check-in with assigned students
2:45 PM chaperones relay to glynn
4:15 PM - all students and chaperones meet at Park Entrance
4:30 PM - Depart for BMMS
5:45 PM - Arrive at BMMS. Students have rides home waiting in parking lot.

PRICES

The total cost per student has been lowered to **\$46**

- This includes coach bus travel fees, festival participation, and park admittance
- This does not include spending money students may want for the park

PAYMENTS

- All payments are due no later than Friday, May 1
- Please make all checks out to: Bellingham Friends of Music. Cash is also acceptable.
- If making payments is an issue or concern, please contact me as soon as possible. This is no reason for any student to miss out on this opportunity. **Alternative payment arrangements can always be made.**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CHAPERONING

Please email me as soon as you can. Here is the chaperone info:

We are going to need about 10 chaperones to help with this trip. Being a chaperone requires the following:

- Have an up-to-date CORI on file and SAFIS fingerprint
- Being available for the entire day of Friday, May 22, 2015
- Monitoring students on buses
- Checking in with students throughout the day at the park
- Relaying information to Mr. Glynn throughout the day
- Paying half of the chaperone tickets (your cost: \$17)

Great East Festival Information Cont.

WHAT TO WEAR

- BMMS Band T-shirt (if you don't have one: plain black t-shirt)
- Jeans, or school-appropriate jean-shorts (weather permitting)
- Comfortable shoes
- There is no chance to change clothes in between our performance and going to the park

WHAT TO BRING

- Your instrument
- Your music
- Water
- a bagged lunch to eat on the bus before or after our performance
- optional money for spending within the park
- Bring a cell phone (if you have one). You should call your families to make sure they are ready to pick you up on our way home.

GENERAL GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

- **YOU** are responsible for making up any work/tests/projects that you are missing as a result of this trip. **YOU** are to make arrangements to make sure it is completed satisfactorily for your teachers.
- Bring a bagged lunch to eat on the bus before/after our performance.
- While you are in the park...
 - ▶ Stay in groups. Do not wander individually.
 - ▶ Check in with the chaperones regularly.
 - ▶ Be respectful of yourself and others. There are many other schools from throughout New England participating in the festival that day. Show them how great students from Bellingham are!
 - ▶ Adhere to all meeting times and places.
 - ▶ Bring a cell phone (if you have one). You should call your families to make sure they are ready to go pick you up
 - ▶ **HAVE FUN!** You CAN have fun, even though you are following the rules. You have all worked very hard this year, and I am very proud of you.

SPECIAL THANKS to the Bellingham Friends of Music for funding our transportation costs, half of the chaperone costs, and managing fundraisers to help our students attend these events!

BMMS Bands
PERMISSION SLIP

for the Memorial Day Parade & the Great East Festival

**PLEASE DETACH THIS SLIP AND RETURN NO LATER THAN:
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015**

By signing below, the student and his or her parent/guardian agrees to:

- participate in both the Memorial Day Parade (May 17) and the Great East Festival (May 22)
- abide by all school rules while on and off school property
- positively represent the Band, the school, and the town while off school grounds
- dress properly for both events as defined in the attached information packet
- bring a bagged lunch for the Great East Festival
- pick your student up from BMMS upon our return from the Great East Festival
- pick your student up from the Town Common after the Memorial Day Parade

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Any other special notes or considerations:

STUDENT

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

- WE COULD STILL USE CHAPERONES FOR BOTH EVENTS -

___ Check here if you are able to chaperone the PARADE on May 17

___ Check here if you are able to chaperone the GREAT EAST FESTIVAL on May 22