

7th/8th Band Choir Combo **Student & Parent Handbook and Interest Form**

Read the following handbook and turn in the signed interest form to Mr. Middleton if you would like to participate in the band/choir combo class.

Admittance to the combo class will be at the discretion of the band and choir teachers based on students' current level of responsibility and consistent preparation for band class.

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Requires both student and parent/guardian signatures.

Introduction

With the approval of superintendent Jill Larson, Junior High Principal Brandon Radford, and the New Berlin CUSD 16 school board, we are happy to offer a combined 7th/8th Grade Band and Choir class for interested students beginning August 2026.

We are excited for students who love music to get to express their talents and interests in both ensembles. Participating in two ensembles does come with increased responsibilities and expectations so students can be a contributing member to both ensembles.

Rest assured that our music department is willing to support students so they can successfully participate. If a student is accepted into combo class, it is because we are confident they can handle it! It is also important that students and their families understand the expectations and responsibilities. This handbook will describe many of the policies and expectations that are unique to the experience.

Please reach out to either Ms. Barrett (kbarrett@pretzelpride.com) or Mr. Middleton (cmiddleton@pretzelpride.com) with questions or concerns, and we will be happy to help guide each student in deciding if combo class is right for them!

Course Description

Band/Choir Combo is a full year course offered to 7th and 8th grade students who want to both play in the band and sing in the choir. Previous participation in band is required (exceptions may be made at the discretion of the band director). No previous choral experience is required to participate in this class.

Students will receive instruction in fundamental music concepts for both ensemble settings, including rhythm, pitch, tone production, sight-reading, and ensemble performance. Emphasis is placed on proper technique, collaboration, and musicianship while fostering an appreciation for a variety of musical styles and genres.

Students will participate in rehearsals and performances as both band and choir members.

Participation in this class requires attending performances outside of the normal school day for both ensembles.

Expectations for Combo Students

- Students are expected to know what class they are supposed to attend each day.
- Students will be responsible for being prepared musically and with needed materials for both classes.
- Students will be expected to complete classwork and homework for both classes (including practice).
- Students are expected to keep class materials organized.

- Students will perform **all** concert music for **both** ensembles and will be graded at the same standard as fellow ensemble members. This means they may need to practice band or choir music at home in order to feel prepared for the performances.

Class Schedule

Students will attend band every Monday and Wednesday.

Students will attend choir every Tuesday and Thursday.

Students will alternate between band and choir on Fridays with the following schedule:

August - December

Friday 8/21/26	Band
Friday 8/28/26	Choir
Friday 9/4/26	Band
Friday 9/11/26	Choir
Friday 9/18/26	Band

Friday 9/25/26	Choir
Friday 10/2/26	Band
Friday 10/9/26	No School
Friday 10/16/26	Choir
Friday 10/23/26	Band
Friday 10/30/26	Choir
Friday 11/6/26	Band
Friday 11/13/26	Choir
Friday 11/20/26	Band
Friday 11/27/26	No School
Friday 12/4/26	Choir
Friday 12/11/26	Band
Friday 12/18/26	Choir

January - May

Friday 1/8/27	Band
Friday 1/15/27	Choir
Friday 1/22/27	Band
Friday 1/29/27	Choir
Friday 2/5/27	Band
Friday 2/12/27	Choir
Friday 2/19/27	Band

Friday 2/26/27	Choir
Friday 3/5/27	Band
Friday 3/12/27	Choir
Friday 3/19/27	Band
Friday 3/26/27	Choir
Friday 4/2/27	No School - Spring Break
Friday 4/9/27	Band
Friday 4/16/27	Choir
Friday 4/23/27	Band
Friday 4/30/27	Choir
Friday 5/7/27	Emergency Day Band (If school is in session)
Friday 5/14/27	Emergency Day Choir (If school is in session)
Friday 5/21/27	Emergency Day Band (If school is in session)
Friday 5/28/27	Emergency Day Choir (If school is in session)

Performance Dates

Performance dates are TBA at this time.

Combo students will be expected to perform in all required events for both ensembles.

Choir Performance Absence Policy

- ❖ Sport schedules are all unique and will be worked out on a case-by-case basis
 - Individual Players need to give both myself and their respective coach the schedules and see if there are any conflicts and work those out at least a week before the performance/game.
- ❖ **If you are NOT able to make a performance, please contact the director as soon as you are able.**
- ❖ If you miss a performance: you have one week (from your return to school) to arrange singing through your music for me to make up your concert grade.

Grading Policy

Combo students will be in their own Skyward class that both the band and choir teacher will contribute to.

Students will have a shared grading policy between the teachers, including:

- Participation - 10%
 - Entered bi-weekly - 4 points available per day. 40 points available every 2 weeks (20 possible points per teacher).
- Assignments - 20%
- Tests - 25%
 - Students will be given at least 2 extra days to complete Tests or Assignments.
- Performances - 45%
 - Performance grades will be split between students' band & choir performances.
 - Each teacher will add half of the overall performance grade.
 - Ex: If 40 points are available for a concert performance grade, then Ms. Barrett and Mr. Middleton will each give 20 points.

Dropping Policy

Students who make the commitment to be in combo class are expected to be in the course for the entire year.

In the event a student is unable to meet the academic demands for band, choir, or their other classes, a parent/guardian, the band or choir teacher, or administrator can initiate a request or recommendation to drop combo class and choose to perform in band or choir only. Once the request has been shared with the band or choir teacher, both teachers will either approve or deny the drop request. Parents/guardians will be informed by email and teachers will initiate the drop procedures at school.

Except for emergency situations, all drops will occur at the end of the nearest grading period.

7th/8th Band Choir Combo Interest Form

Return this form signed by both the student and the parent/guardian and
return to Mr. Middleton.

Students (and their guardians) who are accepted into combo class will receive email communication from
either the band or choir teacher upon their acceptance.

Student Name: _____

Grade for the Upcoming School Year: _____

Previous Band Experience: (Circle) Yes No If yes, how many years? _____

Previous Choir Experience: (Circle) Yes No If yes, how many years? _____

Student Statements

To participate in combo class, I understand my responsibility and am willing to

- Know my class schedule and attend band and choir classes on their assigned day.
- Prepare my music and bring needed materials to both classes.
- Complete classwork and homework for both classes (including practice).
- Keep class materials organized.
- Attend and participate in all required performances for both band and choir.

- Have **all** concert music for **both** ensembles prepared by each concert day, even if that means I need to make time for additional practice at home.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Statements

I understand the expectations for my student including

- Students are expected to be prepared musically and with needed materials for both classes.
- Students are expected to complete classwork and homework for both classes (including practice).
- Students are expected to attend and participate in all required performances for both band and choir.
- Students are expected to have **all** concert music for **both** ensembles prepared by each concert day, which may require additional practice at home.

I am willing to

- Help my student learn the combo schedule.
- Ensure my student is able to attend all required performances for both band and choir.
- Reach out to my student's teachers proactively with questions or concerns.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Teacher Contact Information

Katie Barrett
NBJHS Choir
kbarrett@pretzelpride.com

Colton Middleton
NBJHS Band
cmiddleton@pretzelpride.com