



## BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

~ Michael A. Scarpone - Instrumental ~

Dear parents of incoming freshmen,

For those who do not know me, please allow me to take a moment and introduce myself. My name is Mike Scarpone and I am the instrumental music teacher at Brunswick High School.

Over the past few years, I have been fortunate enough to have met and worked with many of your musicians. Sadly, my teaching schedule prevents me from making it a regular occurrence, especially during 8th grade band times.

On Friday, I have the pleasure of talking to all the 8th graders about course sign-ups for next year. My hope is that I am able to convey that, not only are we SUPER excited about having them come to the high school next year, but that it is very important to me to see each and every one of them enrolled in high school wind ensemble.

I wanted to provide you a little info on the program as well as clear up any confusion about the course sign-up process.

First, when your student is signing up for courses, the very first course they should write in is WIND ENSEMBLE. (not honors wind ensemble or symphonic band.) This is the band class for every kid who plays an instrument at Brunswick High School. I will take care of enrolling the honors group once school starts.

Second, the BHS Band is more than just a class where we meet and learn important pieces of band literature. It is more of a family. As I told the 8th graders, the band students are the most important thing in my life. At the high school, we are a close-knit group that performs at a high level but also enjoy being with each other. People in band enjoy being there and we strive to make it a fun and welcoming environment for all regardless of ability. I encourage beginners through the most skilled musicians in each class.

We are proud of the diversity of the students enrolled in our band program. Currently, band has at least one captain of EACH sport (boys and girls) for every season. We have representatives of almost every level of sport in the band (Freshman through Varsity) Furthermore, we have MANY students who are 3-season athletes. Additionally, we have a majority of all the clubs and activities represented in the band program! Students involved in the band program are an exceptional group of people who are committed to many offerings that make BHS such a special place.



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On top of all that, in the past 9 years, we have had 7 of the valedictorians who are 4 -year members of the band. This years valedictorian, Daniel Lyons, is a 3 year band member as well as a 4 year 3-season athlete. 7 out of 7 were enrolled in band or chorus. Of the top 10 in each class, an overwhelming majority are 4-year band students who also are athletes and AP level students.

One of the unique things about the Brunswick High School Music program is the opportunity for our students to fully participate in both music and athletics. It is very doable. I encourage each and every student to be involved in athletics and in the music program. I feel very strongly that students SHOULD be well rounded and involved in many areas of the school community.

I am enjoying getting to know your son or daughter as the year goes on and hope to build on this relationship for four more EXCITING years! If there is ANYTHING I can do, please don't hesitate to contact me at [mscarpone@brunswick.k12.me.us](mailto:mscarpone@brunswick.k12.me.us)

Again, please make sure to have them select "**Wind Ensemble**" and put it in the first write in spot on their forms!

Thank you so much for supporting your music students! We are so lucky to have so many great families in Brunswick who see the value in instrumental music!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Scarpone", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Scarpone  
Director of Instrumental Music  
Brunswick High School