

WINTER BAND HANDBOOK 2017-2018



Expectations
Procedures
Calendar

Familiarize yourself with the components of this handbook
so there is no confusion about what is expected of you

Expectations of Band Students

Nowhere in Winter School is its motto "**Honor, Pride, Respect**" more prominent than in band class!

● HONOR

- Come prepared to **DO YOUR FAIR SHARE OF WORK**
 - Instrument, Music, Pencil, and most importantly... Positive **ATTITUDE!**
- Make the most of our time.
 - Time is very valuable and in short supply. We can't waste it!
- Do what is best for the **team**, even if it's not something you like to do.
 - **SELFLESSNESS** is one of the best traits you can have in life.
- Be Accountable
 - **DO NOT ASSUME** that someone else will cover for your mistakes!
- **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!!!** It benefits YOU and ALL OF US!

● PRIDE

- Plan to accomplish something each day
 - Every time you play your instrument, plan to **be better** than last time.
- Set goals, and when you achieve them, **feel proud of yourself**
 - Short-term and long-term goals will keep you improving.
- Put on a performance you can be proud of.
 - No musician ever has a perfect performance, but as long as you feel proud of your accomplishments in the end, you've done a **great job!**
- Be optimistic, not pessimistic.

● RESPECT

- **Yourself and others**-Everyone is an important, valuable member of the band.
- **Teacher-STOP TALKING** when the teacher is talking! **STOP PLAYING** when the teacher cuts you off! Remember the **PODIUM RULE!**
- No swearing or disrespectful language, and **ABSOLUTELY NO GUM!**
- Treat **EVERYTHING** in the band room with care. This includes the room and:
 - Instruments, equipment, mallets, chairs, stands, computers, and uniforms
 - **Put EVERYTHING away** in the correct place when you are done using it; **DON'T** just leave them on the floor or on your stand!

All of these things are critical to the success of any team, and the band IS a team.

Practice Responsibilities

PRACTICE MAKES PERMANENT!

A musician's success is dependent upon the amount and consistency with which he or she practices. Remember all of the investments that have been made. **Parents** have invested money to purchase instruments and books, **students** have invested time in years of band, and the **school** has invested money in teachers and equipment. The following suggestions are made for the development of good practice habits.

- 1) Have a definite place to practice. Make sure you can sit or stand with good posture while you play, and that you will be able to concentrate.
- 2) Have a definite time to practice. Establishing a routine is an important factor in the formation of any good habit.
- 3) Always practice with a goal in mind. Decide what it is you want to be better at by the end of the session.
- 4) **It's up to you** how long you practice! Stop once you have achieved your goal, or when you run out of energy.
- 5) It is every student's responsibility to the group to become the best musician he or she can be.

Please make a commitment to regular practice by working out a home practice routine. Consider the following:

- A) Commitment to other school and community activities
- B) Transporting your instrument to and from school
- C) Your own family schedule

Keep in mind that it only takes a minimum of 3 days of negligence for something previously learned to be completely forgotten. This means if you learn how to play something in band, and don't practice it for 3 days, you have to relearn it! **This is a waste of your time, the class's time, and the teacher's time.**

Concert Dress

As a general rule, it is a good idea for all band students to own a pair of black pants and black shoes, not just because are they required for some performances, but also because they are useful in lots of other situations outside of school.

GIRLS

Dresses and/or skirts **may not come above fingertips** when stretch your arms down.

Anything above the fingertips is not acceptable.

Dress pants are fine **but no jeans, cutoff shorts or casual clothes.**

BOYS

Dress pants only (no jeans); shirts should be button down or have a collar.

Shirts may not have graphic designs or large lettering on them.

T-shirts, jerseys, sports wear, athletic shoes, etc. are not acceptable.

WARNING: Any student whose concert dress does not meet the above requirements will be instructed to wear their marching pants and red band polo!

High School Band Polos

On certain occasions, such as community performances or summer parades, the High School Band will be instructed to wear their red and black polo shirts. On these occasions, all members of the band are expected to wear them.

These shirts are to be worn with black pants and black shoes.

Marching Dress

Marching pants with marching jacket and sash. Shorts underneath pants and shirts underneath jackets are encouraged but not required.

Black socks and shoes are required.

If there is any reason these requirements cannot be met, please contact the director and other arrangements will be made.

Fundraising By-Laws

- All of the funds accumulated through the fundraising efforts of members of the Band Department are contributions to the Band Department and not the student.
- All money raised will be deposited into the band fundraising account.
- Money that has been placed in an individual student's name is to be used for major performance tours of the band, summer band camps, and music workshops. This money is to be used for band activities that advance the students' musical education.
- **MAJOR PERFORMANCE TOURS, SUMMER BAND CAMPS, WORKSHOPS:**
- Students are eligible to take 100% of the total cost out of their name to pay for the cost of their participation.
- The band director must approve all deposits and withdrawals.
- Individual accounts will only be maintained as long as you continue your participation in the Winter School Band Program. If you have a scheduling conflict (study hall is not a scheduling conflict) in a given semester/year and are unable to enroll in the instrumental music program you will be able to maintain your account by scheduling regular lessons with the instructor for that semester/year. You are expected to enroll in the band program the following semester/year.
- When you graduate, any money in your account can be transferred to a younger brother or sister (immediate family only) who is currently enrolled in the band program. If you do not have a younger sibling enrolled in the instrumental music program, the money will be transferred into the general fundraising account.

Grading Policy

The following guidelines will apply to grades 5 - 12

The following chart lists some of the key components that go into the grading process: Daily participation, goal-setting in lessons, and readiness for performances. These are **just examples** of reasons why a student's grade may be low. They are not necessarily a direct reflection on the student's activity in class or lessons.

Grade A (100-90)

Students who do an exceptional job participating in band earn an A.

This includes respectful attention to the teacher, consistent progress in learning music and overcoming challenges, and desire to contribute to a performance they will be proud of.

All required lessons are attended and well-prepared for. This includes setting and following short-term and long-term goals as benchmarks for personal musical progress.

Grade B (80-89)

Students who do a good job participating in band earn a B.

Respect to the teacher and fellow band members has a few lapses. While progress is being made to learn concert music, it is slow and unsteady. At least they can still be proud.

Lessons are attended but not well-prepared for. Assignments are not practiced and progress is not made. Goals are not set at each lesson, so progress cannot be measured.

Grade C (70-79)

Students who neglect a few of their band responsibilities earn a C.

Students need frequent reminders that they need to stay focused and respectful in band. Progress made learning concert music is slow. They have little pride in their work.

A few missing lessons brings their grade down. Showing up late, not coming prepared, and making the same mistakes repeated at each lesson, and showing very little progress.

Grade D (60-69)

Students who neglect many of their band responsibilities earn a D.

These students are the common cause of frequent disruptions in band, causing the group to make slower progress as a result. Rather than pride, they show disregard.

Most lessons are missing. No progress is measurable between each attended lesson.

Grade F (below 60)

Students who neglect nearly all of their band responsibilities earn an F.

These students are disrespectful to the teacher and fellow students!

Required lessons and performances are missed and disregarded. No pride or respect!

5th Grade Band

Class Meeting Time:

MON, WED, FRI 10:25-11:05

The goal of 5th grade band is for students to learn a musical instrument of his/her choice and have the opportunity to perform in ensemble and solo settings. Students will perform in two required concerts scheduled throughout the year. There will also be a focus on general music throughout the year.

Students will be graded on the following:

- 1) Daily Participation (20%)
- 2) Lessons (20%)
- 3) Performances (40%)
- 4) Quizzes, Playing Tests and Daily Assessments (20%)

Daily Participation: 20%

Students are expected to participate actively in each band rehearsal. This involves bringing instruments, music, **pencil**, notebook, and supplies to each class, playing and trying their hardest during rehearsals, and paying respectful attention to the teacher. They will receive weekly participation points that will reflect their participation grade at the end of each quarter.

Lessons: 20%

All band students are required to have weekly lessons with the band director. Lessons will be scheduled during recess.

The purpose of lessons is not only to teach students how to play instruments, but also to get students in the habit of setting and achieving small and large goals in their playing. This is an important habit all through band and life in general.

If a 5th grade band student misses more than 2 consecutive lessons, he or she **may be** dismissed from the 5th grade band program.

Performances: 40%

The band will perform in two concerts (Christmas and Spring) throughout the year. Unexcused concert absences will result in a score of a zero. Excused absences will be left to the discretion of the band director, in which case the student may make up excused concert absences with additional work to be decided by the instructor.

Quizzes, Playing Tests and Weekly Practice Records: 20%

Throughout each quarter, students will be given quizzes, both written and playing.

For the most part, these quizzes and playing tests will serve as a self-evaluation and reminder to continue practicing. **On the days in which students will be turning in practice records, the students will be given a playing test.**

This will consist of music that we have worked on during the last week. Students will not be allowed to retake these quizzes and tests. Because of this, it is important that students keep up on their practicing to ensure success.

Students will be required to fill out and turn in a Practice Record every **two weeks**.

The goal is to log at least 60 minutes of practice each week.

A parent signature is required on the practice record before it is turned in.

Late practice records ARE accepted until the end of each quarter.

Practice records will also include a written assignment on the back page.

In addition, students will participate in listening exercises and self-reflections during class time. These will be written in the spiral notebook they have been provided at the beginning of the year.

Middle School Band

Class Meeting Time:

M + W + F (1st, 3rd, and 5th Fri of Month) 1:59-2:42

The goal of Middle School Band is once again to provide students with an opportunity to perform in a large ensemble setting. Students will continue to learn their instrument of choice and begin to implement self-expression, artistic qualities, and emotion into their performance.

Students will be graded on the following:

- 1) Participation (30%)
- 2) Performances (40%)
- 3) Lesson (30%)

Daily Participation: 30%

Students are expected to participate actively in each band rehearsal. This involves bringing instruments, music, **pencil**, notebook, and supplies to each class, playing and trying their hardest during rehearsals, and paying respectful attention to the teacher.

They will receive weekly participation points that will reflect their participation grade at the end of each quarter.

Performances: 40%

The band will perform in two concerts throughout the year. Additionally, 7th and 8th grade will perform at Large Group Festival in the spring. Unexcused absences will substantially drop a student's grade. Excusal from these performances is given at the discretion of the teacher, and may include additional work to be decided by the teacher. Middle School band students can also participate in High School Pep Band for additional rewards, determined by the band teacher.

Solo and Ensemble: During the third quarter of school, students in band will be required to learn and work on a solo or an ensemble piece. They may choose to perform their piece at District Solo and Ensemble, or to perform in front of their peers, date and location to be decided by the teacher. The student's participation in this project will determine a large portion of their 3rd quarter grade.

Lessons: 30%

All band students are required to attend 4 lessons per quarter with the band director. **Lessons will be scheduled by the director at the beginning of the school year.** It is the student's responsibility to remember the days their lessons have been scheduled (**once every two weeks**). The lessons schedule will be posted on the band room white board to serve as a reminder. **The student must come to the band room the morning of their lesson to obtain a hall pass.** All teachers reserve the right to deny a student permission to attend a lesson if they feel the student has been missing their class too often or is falling behind in class. If this is the case, makeup lesson times are available throughout the day and after school. **The student has until their next scheduled lesson to make up their missed lesson** before it counts as a missing assignment, and it is scored as a zero in the grade book.

During lessons, students will be evaluated by the teacher on their ability to set and achieve personal goals, both short-term (from one lesson to the next) and long-term (to the end of the quarter).

The focus of lessons will NOT be on learning concert music, but on developing the skills needed to make that personally possible. Because of this, students will be given assignments, both written and playing, to be completed and prepared by their next scheduled lesson. Not completing the written assignment, or not preparing the playing assignment, will result in a significantly lower lesson grade, which cannot be made up or bolstered.

High School Band

Class Meeting Times:

M T W T H F 2:45-3:20

The goal of the High School Band is to provide students with an opportunity to perform in a large ensemble setting. Students will continue to improve expression and technical aspects on their instruments and have an opportunity to perform solo and small ensembles.

The skills band students learn will transfer into all other curricular activities.

Students will be graded on the following:

1. Participation (40%)
2. Performances (60%)

Daily Participation: 25%

Students are expected to participate actively in each band rehearsal. This involves bringing instruments, music, pencil, and supplies to each class, playing and trying their hardest during rehearsals, and paying attention to the director. They will receive weekly participation points that will reflect their participation grade at the end of each quarter.

Participation grades tend to suffer if a student continues to make the same mistakes in a rehearsal from day to day. If we waste time because you don't learn your part, we all suffer.

Lessons:

As of this year, high school band students are NOT required to attend band lessons as part of their quarter grade!

Signing up for lessons is optional. High school band students may sign up to attend as many or as few as they wish, if they need help with a challenge in their music. Students who have attended enough optional lessons will earn a reward at the end of the year for their extra work.

High school band students **may be instructed to sign up for a lesson** if they are not showing sufficient progress in daily rehearsals. In these scenarios, that student would have **one week** to attend a 20-minute band lesson, or in lesser cases, spend 20 minutes in the practice room.

Performances: 60%

- Performances are scheduled throughout the school year and during the summer. With any elective musical ensemble, concerts, pep band, and parades are **required**.
- The HS Band will participate in two concerts (Christmas and Spring), along with Large Group Festival in April.
- They will also be performing for Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, July Jubilee, Harvest Festival, the Stone Lake Cranberry Festival and High School Graduation.
- Band students are also required to attend all Pep Band events specified on the Music Department Calendar.
- Students who play **Varsity Sports** on a Pep Band night are excused from playing.
- Unexcused absences will substantially drop a student's grade. Excusal from these performances is given at the discretion of the teacher, and may include additional work to be decided by the teacher.

Solo and Ensemble: During the third quarter of school, students in band will be required to learn and work on a solo or an ensemble piece. They may choose to perform their piece at District Solo and Ensemble, or to perform in front of their peers, date and location to be decided by the teacher. The student's participation in this project will determine a large portion of their 3rd quarter grade.

Missing a performance because of a student's job is NOT excused, because they are given plenty of time to take off.

Our HS Band often acts in the capacity of an ambassador from our school and our best foot needs to be put forward at every event we attend. When schedule conflicts arise, it is in the best interest of the student and the band to communicate with employers, the band director, and parents about upcoming events. Employers find communication skills very important in their employees and understand that their workers have outside commitments and are willing to give them time off for scheduled performances.

Chair Placements

Chair placement is decided by the teacher based on last year's progress, attitude, and overall work. Chair placements are not final. **At any time in the year, you can choose to challenge a player who is seated above you.** You must state your intent to do so, at least two classes before the challenge will take place. On the day of the challenge, both students will play a selection, determined by the band teacher, and the class will decide who was better. The performance will be hidden, and students will not know who is playing each time.

Lettering in Band

Any band student in grades 9-12 is eligible to letter in band. The points for lettering begin fresh every summer. For example, to letter in band for the 17-18 school year, the points begin accumulating the summer of 2017. In order to letter in band, and afterwards earn a bar in band, students need to be active musicians. If all the requirements are met and enough points are earned, at the end of the year the student will receive either a letter (if it is their first year meeting requirements), or a bar (one bar for each year meeting lettering requirements). At the end of their HS career, a band student may have earned one letter and three bars.

Requirements for lettering:

- Must have accumulated **250** points
- Must have earned a **B Grade** for each quarter
- No unexcused absences from required performance during the entire year
- Must not have any outstanding debts in band department

EVENT	POINTS AWARDED
Concert	20 points each
Parade	20 points each
Summer Marching Rehearsal	5 points each, 10 bonus points if attended ALL summer marching opportunities
Large Group Festival	20 points
Pep Band	10 points each
Veteran's Day	10 points (20 if playing Taps)
Memorial Day	10 points (20 if playing Taps)
Graduation	10 points
District Solo and Ensemble	10 points per ensemble, 20 points per solo
State Solo and Ensemble	20 points per ensemble, 40 points per solo
Conference Honors Band	20 points
Fundraising Event	10 points per event
Lessons	10 points per optional lesson attended
Volunteering	10 points per hour of volunteer work you do in the band room or for the band teacher

- Other points may be awarded for events not listed. This is at the discretion of the band director. Students will be notified when new events are added.
- Student athletes are not awarded points for pep band performances they miss because they are playing, but neither are they discredited as an unexcused absence.

Required Equipment for Band Students

This is a list of minimum required equipment that all students in band should have.

In addition to your instrument and band music:

ALL:

TWO sharpened **pencils** (keep them in your case, folder, or band locker, but bring one to your stand every rehearsal!)

One spiral **notebook** (keep in your folder slot in the band room)

Brass Players: One bottle of **valve** or **slide oil**

Recommended: One bottle of tuning slide grease; cleaning snake

Woodwind Players: Two good **reeds**, ready to play on

Recommended: Reed holder, cleaning swab, key oil

Percussion Players: One pair of matched **drum sticks** in good condition

These can be purchased at any music store or through the school music program at a discounted price. See the director for your equipment needs.

This equipment is **BASIC** and if you do not have it, it will be very hard to be successful in band this year. You may, of course, wish to have the recommended items suggested below the requirements. It is my hope that all of you will eventually get the additional items, which will help you play better.