

USING THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook is intended to provide students and their parents with a point of reference concerning the policies and procedures of the Grandview Middle School Band Program.

Parents and students are asked to read and become thoroughly familiar with the contents of this handbook to avoid any conflicts which might arise.

Special attention should be given to "hot boxes" like this one. They contain some of the most important information in this book. A list of these boxes is given below with page numbers.

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Please Note: It is impossible to anticipate every situation that may occur in the daily workings of the band program. In instances where a policy or scenario is not outlined in this handbook, the director will make a decision that is in the best interest of the program.

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Excerpts In This Handbook Were Taken From:

- The East Gaston High School Band Handbook, Mark and Anne Reese, Dir.
- The Vance High School Band Handbook, Eric Harris, Director.
- The ASBDA Curriculum Guide, Copyright 1973, Volkwein Bros. Inc.
- The Bay City Western Intermediate Band Handbook, Craig Heydenburg, Dir.

Guiding Principals

Welcome

I wish to issue a sincere welcome to all students and parents who have chosen to be a part of the Grandview Middle School Band Program. I am very happy to have you with us and trust that your association with this organization will give you great pride.

The purpose of this manual is to outline and clarify all aspects of the program operations for the students and parents. These pages should give sufficient information on most, if not all situations that may arise through the school year. Grades, concert attire, performance expectations, class materials as well as other important information are covered in the pages that follow.

All students and their families are asked to read and become thoroughly familiar with the contents of this handbook in order to avoid any misunderstandings which might arise. This handbook contains all of the policies and procedures that will be in effect for the 2011-2012 school year. As always, parents should feel free to contact the school at any time with questions that you may have. I look forward to an exciting and prosperous school year.

Best Wishes,

Richard Holmes, Grandview Middle School Band Director
828 - 328 - 2289 ext 260

My Philosophy

Band was a very special experience for me as a young person. Most of my friends were in band and a great deal of my time was spent involved in some aspect of the program. Band gave me a place to grow, succeed, and feel accepted. It is my desire to create a band program at Grandview Middle School that will have the same positive impact upon the students that I teach. As such, the Grandview Middle School Band Program is designed to:

PURPOSES OF THE GRANDVIEW MIDDLE BAND PROGRAM

- Provide each student with a comprehensive music education by teaching the skills and attitudes necessary to succeed as a young musician and as a young adult.
- Benefit the school and community through the public performance of quality music while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of Grandview Middle School Band Program.
- To foster the development of essential character qualities which we believe include: a strong work ethic; a respect for order and legitimate authority; a sense of personal integrity; a responsibility for one's actions; a commitment to excellence, and a respect for the time, talents, abilities, and accomplishments of others.
- To provide each student with a positive emotional outlet, a good social experience, and a worthy use of leisure time.

What I Expect

The expectations that follow are more than just a set of rules listed in this handbook, they are characteristics found in students from the best band programs across our country. Band students are typically some of the finest young people in a school. Always remember who we are, where we are from, and what we are about. As Grandview Middle School Band members you are expected to be:

BAND STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE.....

DISCIPLINED

Understand the need for practice and make time for it on a daily basis.

PUNCTUAL

Always be on time for class, rehearsals, and performances.

PERSISTENT

Understand that becoming a good musician is a process. It takes time. Work to improve on a daily basis.

POSITIVE

Attitudes are contagious. Be sure yours is worth catching. Smile and be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem.

HONEST

Admit your limitations and mistakes.
Take full responsibility for your actions.
Do not lie, cheat, or steal.

RESPONSIBLE

You are young adults. Please do not wait for us to tell you the obvious.

WELL-BEHAVED

Follow instructions the first time they are given.
Be quiet, attentive, and in control of yourself.

PREPARED

Bring all materials to each class, rehearsal, and performance.

COMMITTED

Realize the impact your actions, attitudes, and performances will have on the group.
Think of the band first.

POLITE

Talk to one another, teachers, parents, and administrators with kindness, respect, and courtesy.

MATURE

Think *before* acting.

PROUD

Remember who you are, and where you are from.
Take pride in yourself, your band, and your school.
Celebrate success together.

What You Can Expect

Just as I have expectations for each student, there are certain things that you should be able to expect from me. As your teacher I will work to be:

- ◆ **Firm** and **consistent** in my expectations for each student and for the bands. I will expect your best effort and behavior at all times.
- ◆ **Fair** in establishing and enforcing policies and procedures.
- ◆ **Committed** to helping each student grow and become their personal best.
- ◆ **Worthy** of your trust. I will continually work to become a better teacher by listening to and learning from other directors.
- ◆ **Honest** when commenting on your actions, attitudes, behavior, and performances. I will never tell you that it is good when in reality it is bad, and I will never tell you it is bad, when in reality it is good.

The Importance of Procedure

Policies and procedures are outlined in this handbook to ensure that all aspects of the band program run smoothly, and to ensure that each student has a safe and successful experience. *Please do not ask for exceptions to rules.* At times, unforeseen circumstances may warrant the modification of a policy. When these situations occur, modifications will be made on a case by case basis at the discretion of Mr. Holmes.

The Importance of Discipline

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict. The class contains two to three times the number of students found in most other classes; therefore, it is imperative that parents and students be willing to accept the goals, ideals, rules and procedures of the program. Band students are constantly on display and each member should be aware of the importance of good behavior.

Students should never forget that they represent their school, community and families whenever and wherever they perform in public. Any misconduct, however slight, reflects on the conduct of the band as a whole and one incident can undo the work of hundreds of loyal students and parents. Therefore, any infraction of established rules will not be tolerated.

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Curriculum Guide

Course Offerings

The following is the list of class offerings for band in the Grandview Middle School. Each class has specific requirements for admission and membership

Sixth Grade Band. Sixth grade band is open to all sixth grade students who have attended the parent orientation meeting held in the spring.

Sixth grade band begins with fundamentals (posture, hand position, embouchure, articulation, characteristic tone production) and continues with extensive development of rhythmic vocabulary, scales, and range development.

The sixth grade band may perform on the Holiday Concert held in December and will perform on the Spring Concert held in May. Students are required to maintain a band notebook and complete various written assignments dealing with music theory and music history topics. Daily individual practice is essential for student success in sixth grade band (30 minutes each day). Students must have a minimum grade of C and maintain a satisfactory conduct grade in sixth grade band to be admitted to the seventh grade band.

Seventh Grade Band. Seventh grade band students begin to apply previously learned skills to the performance of standard wind-band music. Emphasis is placed on achieving the full band sound and functioning as a complete wind-ensemble. Students also continue to expand their knowledge of rhythms, scales, and basic music theory.

The seventh grade band will perform on the Holiday Concert in December and the Spring Concert in May. Students are required to attend these performances as they are a part of the second and fourth quarter grade. There may also be other performance opportunities. Students are required to maintain a band notebook and complete various written assignments dealing with music theory and music history topics. Daily individual practice is essential for student success in seventh grade band (30 minutes each day).

Students must have a minimum grade of C and maintain a satisfactory conduct grade in seventh grade band to be admitted to the eighth grade band.

Eighth Grade Band. The Eighth Grade Band is the top performing ensemble in the Grandview Middle School Band Program. Students continue to develop the full band sound.

All previously learned material is applied to the performance of moderately difficult wind-band literature. The eighth grade band has multiple performance obligations which are a majority of the second, third, and fourth quarter grade. Students are required to maintain a band notebook and complete various written assignments dealing with music theory and music history topics. Daily individual practice is essential for student success in eighth grade band (30 minutes each day).

The eighth grade band performs on the Holiday Concert in December, the Spring Concert in May, and may attend Concert Band MPA in March. There may also be other performance opportunities.

Only students of the highest caliber are allowed to perform with this ensemble.

In the Quest for Excellence two things can not be hidden: Hard Work and the Lack of it!

• *Mark Reese*

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Operating Policies & Procedures

Daily Procedure

The following is the daily procedure at Grandview Middle School:

Grandview Middle School Rehearsal Rules

- ◆ Band classes will begin each day with students arriving on time, prepared with all required materials and instrument.
- ◆ Students should be seated as soon as possible. In short, you can still be considered tardy if you are not in your seat when the director steps on the podium.
- ◆ Students should not play before class starts, we will warm-up together.
- ◆ Students are not to talk or leave their seats without first obtaining permission. Raise your hand and wait to be called on.
- ◆ Do not raise your hand to ask a question once the director's hands are raised for playing.
- ◆ Students should return all instruments and classroom materials to their proper

Please note: All rules and policies of the Hickory City Schools Code of Student Conduct will be followed and enforced as school policy mandates. All students should refer to their student handbook for further information.

Class Participation Policy

All students are expected to play each day in band class. Class participation is a large portion of each students' quarter grade.

Below are the "top four" excuses that we hear each year. Each excuse is followed by our policy on the subject.

Braces. Many folks have braces and we realize that these are sometimes painful, especially if the orthodontist tightens your appliances in the morning and you have band in the afternoon. We will work with you on this as long as we do not feel that you are taking advantage of the situation. Follow your doctor's instructions and gargle with warm salt water to help ease the pain. Usually one or two days will be the maximum allowed for brace pain.

"I forgot my horn." These incidents are handled on an individual basis. If you do this often, we will remove 2.2 points per offense from your quarter participation average. After school detention is also an option (in addition to the grade penalty).

"My horn is in the shop." If your horn is in the shop, you must bring be a note *from the shop* that includes the following:

1. The name, address, and phone number of the shop.
2. The estimated time needed for repair.
3. A signature of the owner or repair technician.
4. The projected pick-up date.

Students will be allowed two days for instrument repairs. More than two days will require a make-up contract to be completed by the student.

"I don't feel good." In general, if you are well enough to be at school then you should be well enough to play. We realize that sometimes this is not the case. These incidents will be handled on an individual basis. Again, if we feel that you are taking advantage of the situation, we will remove 2.2 points per day from your quarter average.

Please note: Students who cannot participate in a challenge for seating due to shop repairs, forgotten instrument, personal illness, or absence may lose their seat.

Make-Up Policy

It is important for students to be in class each day and in attendance at all rehearsals and performances. Our success depends on the attendance and hard work of each band member. You are important and we cannot have a successful program without you. In the event of an absence follow the procedures listed below:

FROM CLASS

- 1) Bring a note from home, signed by a parent.
- 2) Check with your director to see what you missed (new dates, missed assignments, playing grades, etc.)
- 3) If a playing or written assignment was missed, schedule a make-up time with your director.

FROM ANY EVENING REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE

- 1) Bring a note home, signed by a parent. A doctor's note may also be requested.
- 2) Conference with your director to determine the grade and/or performance penalty or to discuss make-up requirements. Please keep in mind that a rehearsal or performance cannot really be "made-up" and will only be excused under the most serious circumstances.
- 3) If the absence is excused, complete a make-up contract to be signed by the student, parent, and director.

Required Class Materials

The following is a list of required class materials for band classes at Grandview Middle School.

REQUIRED CLASS MATERIALS

6th Grade Band

Standard of Excellence Book I \$7.50
Band Notebook with Protector sheets
and paper.

REQUIRED CLASS MATERIALS

Continued

7th Grade Band

Standard of Excellence Book I \$7.50
Standard of Excellence Book II \$7.50
Band Notebook with Protector sheets
and paper.

8th Grade Band

Standard of Excellence Book II \$7.50
Band Notebook with Protector sheets
and paper

*Please Note: Percussionists **must** purchase a method book for snare drum and mallets/bells.*

Also Required For All Bands

- Reeds for all woodwind players.
- Valve oil for brass players.
- Sticks and mallets for percussionists.
- Instrument in good playing condition.
- Step-up mouthpiece *strongly* encouraged.
- Specified Concert Attire for all band members.

Rehearsals and Performances

Band students at Grandview Middle School have a variety of opportunities to perform for the public and for ratings at state sponsored events.

Attendance at all concerts is mandatory and is a part of each student's nine weeks grade. Mr. Holmes is a member of the Music Educator's National Conference (MENC) and the North Carolina Music Educator's Association (NCMEA). As such you are eligible to participate in the district and state sponsored events listed below.

Holiday Concert. All Bands may perform on the Holiday Concert in December. The call time (when to arrive) will be announced at a later time.

All District Band. Students may audition for All District Band at South Point High School in January (traditionally, the first Saturday after the Holiday break). Students who make the band will attend a two day clinic at Lenoir Rhyne

University and Hickory High School in late January.

Pre-Concert Band MPA Concert. Each band from Hickory that attends Concert Festival will perform on a Pre-Concert Band MPA held in late February or early March. The program is intended as a “practice-run” for the actual performance at Concert Band MPA. Band Directors from local schools provide taped comments just as the judges do at Concert Band MPA. The band then has a period of two weeks to fix the problems.

Concert Band MPA. Bands will attend the South Central District Concert Band MPA. At Concert Band MPA, bands perform a program selected from the state approved Concert Band MPA Music List. A panel of three judges evaluates the bands performance based on the following categories:

- Tone - beauty, blend, control
- Technique - articulation, facility, precision, rhythm
- Interpretation - expression, phrasing, style, tempo
- Intonation - chords, melodic line, tutti
- Balance - ensemble, sectional
- Musical Effect - artistry, fluency
- Other Factors - choice of music, instrumentation, discipline, appearance

Following the performance of three prepared pieces, the band goes into a sightreading room and performs for a fourth judge. This judge evaluates the band’s ability to perform a piece which has never been seen, or rehearsed before.

After sightreading, all scores are sent to a tabulation room where they are averaged into a final rating for the band, The following level scale is used:

I = Superior, II = Excellent, III = Average,
IV = Below Average, V = Poor.

Each band’s goal is to earn a Superior rating at Concert Band MPA. A beautiful cherrywood plaque is awarded to each band that earns this prestigious rating.

Only bands who have achieved the highest levels of preparation and discipline need attend this event. The Band’s attendance is contingent upon good instrumentation, hard work, steady progress, and flawless student behavior.

All State Honors Band. Students who make top seats in the All District Band may audition for the North Carolina All State Honors Band. Students who make this band will attend a three day clinic in April.

Solo and Ensemble MPA. Just as a band may go to Concert Band MPA, soloists and small ensembles (duets,

trios, quartets, etc.) may go to Solo and Ensemble Festival held in May of each year. Ratings like the ones given to bands at Contest are given to each performing event.

Spring Concert. All bands will perform on a Spring Concert held in May.

Required Performance Attire

Students will be required to wear a standard outfit when performing. When dress alike it creates an atmosphere of class and dignity; it communicates a unified sense of purpose. The following concert attire is required for each student in the Hickory Public Schools Band Program.

REQUIRED CONCERT ATTIRE FOR GRANDVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND STUDENTS

Middle School Band students will wear:

- ◆ White Polo Shirt with the band logo
- ◆ Black Pants
- ◆ Black Socks
- ◆ Black Shoes

No Tennis Shoes or jeans allowed!

Concert Etiquette and Procedure

All band members are expected to conduct themselves with dignity and class at all times (whether on the stage, waiting in the bandroom to perform, or seated as a member of the audience). Students should remember that concerts are our opportunity to make a positive impression on the public. Your good behavior and best performance are critical to that goal. The following guidelines apply for all concert performances:

- ◆ Students should arrive prior to their assigned call time to be in place, ready for attendance.
- ◆ Students should not play prior to warm-up or while waiting to go to the stage. Each band will warm-up and tune together.
- ◆ All students will remain in the bandroom until the warm-up is complete and the band enters the performance space together. Students will enter the stage quietly and with dignity.
- ◆ Students are not to talk during the performance, either on stage or as a member of the audience.
- ◆ Band students are to remain for the entire performance. Anyone leaving early from the performance will be subject to the same consequence as missing the performance.

- ◆ All students are expected to stay after the concert to help return chairs, stands, and other equipment to the bandroom. The performance space and the bandroom must be clean and ready for the next morning's classes.
- ◆ If refreshments are served following a concert, students should first return all equipment to the bandroom and ready the stage and bandroom for the next day's classes *before* entering the serving lines.

Grading Policy

Grading policies for the Grandview Middle School Band Program have been developed over a period of years and in cooperation with directors from some of the finest programs in our state. These policies have been designed to ensure that the grade report clearly and accurately reflects the performance quality of each individual and further ensures that the band experience is fair and equitable to all who participate. Below is an explanation of the grading formula used for each grading period.

GRANDVIEW BAND GRADING POLICY

All student averages are based on two grading categories:

- the Class Average.
- the Concert Average.

Part One - 70%

Class Average includes the following:

- Daily attendance with all materials and instrument.
- Tests (includes playing tests and written tests)
- Homework/Daily Practice
- Pass-Off Assignments

Part Two - 30%

Evening Performances:

- Attendance at all evening concerts is mandatory.
- Arrive on time for your call time. If you are late you will receive a grade penalty.
PLEASE BE ON TIME!!!
- Wear the specified concert attire for the concert.

If an evening performance does not occur during a grading period, the class average will count 100%.

Award Opportunities

Awards are presented each year during May. Students are rewarded for demonstrating the highest levels of performance, pride, maturity, respect, commitment, work ethic, and responsibility. The following is a list of award opportunities available.

Grandview Band Awards

First Chair Award. This recognition is given to the member of a section who has maintained high performance levels on their instrument by remaining first chair for the majority of the school year.

Most Improved. This award is given to students who have shown the greatest improvement throughout the year.

Eighth Grade Band Award. This award is given to the eighth grader who has demonstrated a high level of performance skills, maturity, commitment, responsibility and work ethic.

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Equipment & Facilities

Changing Instruments

Some students will be allowed to change instruments so that our band can have a full instrumentation. This is a perfect opportunity for students to learn to play a new instrument. Typically woodwind players will switch to woodwinds, and brass players will switch to brass. A band needs multiple players on the following instruments: tuba, baritone, french horn, baritone saxophone, and bass clarinet.

Please Note: Students may not switch to percussion instruments. All instrument changes must be approved by the band director and the student's parent or guardian.

School Owned Instruments

Students who wish to switch to background instruments may use a school owned instrument. *Instruments are assigned on an individual basis at the discretion of the director.* These instruments are extremely expensive and are purchased on a limited budget. Always be sure to keep cases latched and clean. Cases with wheels should be carried when outside the building.

Students who use a school owned instrument must sign a loan contract. The school system pays for all routine maintenance and small repairs (stuck valves, stuck slides, etc.) *The student however, is financially responsible for all damage to the instrument (dents, broken tubing, curled bells, theft, etc.)* If a school owned instrument needs repair, it must be taken to the shop by the school band director.

Take Your Instrument Home

Students are required to take their horns home each evening for practice. As such, no instruments should be left in the storage room overnight, on weekends, or on holidays. Students who leave their instruments in the school overnight, on weekends, and/or over holidays do so at their own risk. *The school's insurance does not cover the loss of or damage to student property.* Never store your instrument in your hall locker.

Purchasing New Instruments

Many times as a student's interest in and commitment to band intensifies, parents seek to purchase a higher quality instrument. There are three basic "grades" of instruments available for purchase:

Beginner. Used by students in beginning band. These instruments are designed with the young student in mind and will take a moderate amount of abuse.

Intermediate. These instruments are sometimes called "step-ups." They are normally played by high school students or advanced middle school students. Nicer than a beginner instrument, this type is built with the older student in mind. Step-up horns will have nicer features and will not take as much abuse as a beginner model. Parents and students should notice a significant improvement in the sound quality when a student moves to this level of instrument.

Professional. Used by serious music students (middle and high school), college music majors, and professional musicians. These instruments are of the highest quality and will not take any abuse. They produce the truest symphonic sounds and cost substantially more than beginner models.

Parents who wish to purchase an instrument should contact us at school. We will be happy to suggest a brand and model that will suit your child's needs.

Please Note: Parents should check with multiple music retailers to find the best prices on new instruments. When a new instrument is purchased, it is strongly recommended that the beginner model be kept and used for marching band.

Step-Up Mouthpieces

All students are encouraged to purchase a step-up mouthpiece. These mouthpieces will also cause a noticeable improvement in the quality of sound produced by the player and are an appealing option when compared to the purchase of an intermediate or professional grade instrument. **A beginning instrument with a**

step-up mouthpiece will often sound very similar to a professional horn! The following are the suggested mouthpieces for each instrument.

SUGGESTED STEP-UP MOUTHPIECES

Instrument	Mouthpiece	Cost
Clarinet	Vandoren B - 45 (with a Rovner ligature)	\$70.00
Bass Clarinet	Vandoren B - 45 (with Rovner ligature)	\$120.00
Alto Sax	Selmer S - 80 C Star (with Rovner ligature)	\$90.00
Tenor Sax	Selmer S - 80 C Star (with Rovner ligature)	\$120.00
Baritone Sax	Selmer S - 80 C Star (with Rovner ligature)	\$120.00
Trumpet	Bach 5C or Benge 5C (Bach 3C for advance)	\$50.00
French Horn	King H2 or Conn H2	\$40.00
Baritone	Bach 6 1/2 AL	\$60.00
Trombone	Bach 6 1/2 AL check shank size	\$60.00
Tuba	Bach 18	\$70.00

Note: All prices listed are approximate. Parents are encouraged to check with several stores to find the best prices. ***Please do not accept substitutions made from music dealers without first checking with your director!***

Note: Woodwinds should purchase No. 3 Reeds and a reed keeper (that holds four reeds)

There is no substitute for the right equipment.

• Robert Yates

Private Teachers & Lessons

A good private teacher is one of the most valuable investments a parent can make for their child. Band directors are trained in the instruction of all instruments, but that knowledge cannot compare to that of a professional musician who has spent a lifetime studying and performing on one instrument. The entire concept can be likened to the medical profession. Band Directors are general practitioners, private teachers are the specialists.

Facilities

All band classes at Grandview Middle School will meet in the band room. There are several areas in the room of which you should be aware.

Music Office. The Music Office is for the private use of the Band Director. Students are not to enter this room without permission from a Band Director. Students are reminded that a closed office door means a private conversation. Common courtesy dictates knocking if the door is closed.

Instrument Storage Room. The Instrument Storage Room is used to house student instruments during the school day. Students are to keep this room neat and clean at all times. All instrument cases should be latched and placed in an orderly fashion. All instruments are to be kept on the shelves and off the floor at all times. Students should take their instruments home each evening for practice. The school's insurance does not cover the loss of or damage to student property. Students who leave their instruments at school overnight, on weekends, or on holidays do so at their own risk!

Special Equipment

Percussion Batterie. The percussion instruments are located in the back of the band room. These instruments are very expensive and are to be played by percussion students only.

Percussion students are responsible for keeping this area clean and organized and should alert the director when any instrument needs maintenance or repair.

Piano. The piano at the front of the class is for use by the Band Director and select students. Do not play the piano unless you have permission.

The Strobe Tuner is kept in front of the bandroom and is for director use only. Students who wish to check pitch tendencies should ask for help from their director.

The Audio System is located at the front of the bandroom. This very expensive collection of equipment is for director use only.

Chairs and Stands are very expensive and hard to replace. Please do not abuse these pieces. Remember, if you break it, you buy it!

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How Parents Can Help

At Home

Regardless of your musical background, a parent's support and encouragement will have a tremendous impact on your child's progress in band. To assist in the musical growth of your child:

- ◆ **Support** the goals, policies, procedures, and decisions of your child's band director. Your child succeeds when the program succeeds.
- ◆ **Require** practicing at home on a daily basis. Provide a regular time and place where your child can practice every day.
- ◆ **Ask** your child to play for you. **Encourage** performance.
- ◆ **Teach** your child to be punctual by helping them to be on time for rehearsals and performances.
- ◆ Enthusiastically **attend** all band functions to show your support. **Get Involved!**
- ◆ Help keep your child's instrument in good **repair**.

At School

The parents and friends of Hickory Public Schools Band Program make up the Band Boosters. They provide valuable financial and physical assistance to the students and staff of the program. Much of the success of the program is directly related to their unselfish efforts.

The Band Boosters are responsible for maintaining the uniforms, collecting money and fees, all fund raisers including conducting the annual fruit sale and providing chaperones for all band trips among other duties.

Anyone wishing to be involved with the band may find a place in this organization. This is an excellent opportunity to be involved in your child's life without annoying them! Meetings are held on a semi-regular basis and are always announced in advance. Please consider becoming involved; an effort to recruit parents and patrons will commence with the opening of school in the fall. All parents are encouraged to become involved, there is a place and a duty for all.

In Closing

Young people in today's society need positive direction in their lives. We see band as an opportunity to shape young lives and to positively influence young people.

Students must understand that their lives will have a tremendous impact on the lives of others. The nature of that impact (good or bad) is up to the individual.

Remind your child when the challenge becomes tough, that teachers, just like parents, set high standards because we care. Many thanks for your support of our program and best wishes for a safe, happy, and successful school year.

HOW TO PRACTICE

Daily practice time is essential for student success in band. All band students should spend a minimum of thirty minutes each day in individual practice. Daily practice time is homework for band. The guidelines below will help to organize your practice time. Remember, practice time is to be spent practicing, not watching the clock!

- **Practice in the same place each day.** Be sure there are no distractions.
- **Begin with long tones.** Concentrate on producing a pleasing sound. Think about your breathing. Produce a steady and controlled air stream. Use a mirror to check your embouchure, hand position, and posture.
- **Spend time on scales.** Play them slowly at first and then work for speed.
- **Work out of your method book each day.** Try to stay several lines ahead of the class. Work for accuracy and be sure to play *everything* on the page.
- **Practice your music.** Work on the parts that you *cannot* play. Practice them slowly at first and then increase the speed. Work one measure at a time. Once you are able to play a measure five times without mistakes then you can increase the tempo.
- **Pay careful attention to details:** correct notes and fingerings, rhythms, key signatures and accidentals, signs and symbols, dynamics, and articulations.
- Finally **play something just for fun.**

PRACTICE TIMELINE (30 MINUTE SESSION)

5 Minutes Long Tones	5 Minutes Scales	7 Minutes Method Book	10 Minutes Music	3 Minutes For Fun	Swab, Empty, Pack-up
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