

Grass Lake

High School and Middle School

Band Handbook 2022-2023

Welcome to the Grass Lake band program! The mission of the band program is to open students' eyes to music by learning to play a wind or percussion instrument. Being in a band is a group activity and requires the participation of every student in the band. The purpose of this handbook is to help clarify the expectations of students in the Grass Lake band program.

In communicating information about our class to parents I will use email and an app/program called Remind. Students will receive the same messages on email and Remind but will have Schoology messages added as they tend to check that much more regularly than email. I will also post resources on Schoology and will never "unpost" them so they are available to students and parents at all times.

If you have any questions at any time, please don't hesitate to contact me at Abby.Briggs@grasslakeschools.com

Band Director: **MS. ABBY BRIGGS**

Contents:

- Grading Policy
- End-of-year Awards Policy (HS only)
- Uniform Descriptions
- School Instrument Usage
- Schedule of Performances and Events

Grading Policy for Middle School:

Participation: 5 Points per day

- 3 Points for bringing your instrument, music, and a pencil (no pens) to class, **BEING SEATED IN TIME FOR ATTENDANCE CALL, AND MAKING SURE YOUR AREA OF THE CLASSROOM AND INSTRUMENT CUBBY ARE NEAT AND TIDY**
- 2 points for actively participating in class and following directions
- If you are taking both band and choir the days you are in choir will show up as blank in PowerSchool

Playing Tests and Written Work: Tests are typically 20 points each; written work will vary

- Students will receive a written rubric with each playing test, in class music checks will receive verbal feedback
- Tests will be assigned at least two days in advance
- Playing tests might be held in class, privately, or recorded at teacher discretion

Performances: Concerts and other performances are worth at least 200 points each

- A student may make up a performance grade ONLY if there is an illness requiring a doctor's care, funeral, or other family emergency. The makeup assignment will consist of a **PLAYING TEST**, or other similar assignment. Remember, band is like a team and needs all the team members present to function. Please see the calendar at the back of this packet for all performance dates.
- Arriving late or not having the proper uniform will reduce the grade by 20%. Not having the proper uniform may prevent you from performing at all.

Classroom Rules:

- Respect other students, the instruments, and the band room.
- The band room is a "Kind Words Only" zone; if you have something mean to say, keep it to yourself.
- Gum is not allowed in the band room, spit it out as soon as you enter the room to avoid a warnings or more severe consequences
- **NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED EXCEPT WATER**
- Keep the room and your personal materials clean and organized
- Cell phones, iPods, etc.: If I see them, they will be confiscated. Leave them in your locker to avoid confiscation. Please refer to the student handbook for the consequences.

Grading Policy for High School (Marching, Concert, and Jazz Band)

Participation: 5 points per day

- 3 Points for bringing your instrument, music, and a pencil (no pens) to class, **BEING SEATED IN TIME FOR ATTENDANCE CALL, AND MAKING SURE YOUR AREA OF THE CLASSROOM AND INSTRUMENT CUBBY ARE NEAT AND TIDY**
- 2 Points for actively participating in class and following directions

Playing Tests and Written Work: Tests are typically 20 points each; written work will vary

- Students will receive a written rubric with each playing test, in class music checks will receive verbal feedback
- Tests will be assigned at least two days in advance
- Playing tests may be held in class, privately, or recorded at teacher discretion

Performances: Concerts and other performances are worth at least 200 points each

- All outside of class performances are graded.
- A student may make up a performance grade **ONLY** if there is an illness requiring a doctor's care, funeral, or other family emergency. The makeup assignment will consist of a **PLAYING TEST**, or other similar assignment. Remember, band is like a team and needs all the team members present to function. Please see the calendar at the back of this packet for all performance dates.
- Work, not having a ride, I didn't tell my parents, etc., are not valid excuses.
- Arriving late or not having the proper uniform will reduce the grade by 20% each. Not having the proper uniform may prevent you from performing at all.

Classroom Rules:

- Respect other students, the instruments, and the band room
- Gum is not allowed in the band room. It is a choking hazard. Spit it out as soon as you enter the room to avoid a warning or more severe consequences
- **NO FOOD OR DRINK OTHER THAN WATER ALLOWED IN THE BAND ROOM**
- Keep the room and your personal materials clean and organized
- Cell phones, iPods, etc.: If I see them, they will be confiscated. Leave them in your locker to avoid confiscation. Please refer to the student handbook for the consequences of confiscation

End-of-Year Awards Policy (High School Only)

For all the hard work the students put into the band program, they deserve to be recognized. The following awards are available at the end of the year:

End of first full year in band/jazz band: Pat on the back

End of second year: GL letter for varsity jacket

End of third year: Numerals for varsity jacket

End of fourth year: 4-year plaque

Just signing up for band does not guarantee you will be recognized with one of these awards. You must also do the following:

- Attend band camp and all other scheduled performances
- Attend any extra rehearsals and other outside-of-school required activities
- Pay off any debts to the music program at the end of the year (for example if you still owe for band camp, shoes, or reeds at the end of the year)
- Turn in your complete uniform at the end of the year

Unexcused absences will prevent you from receiving an award. Please see the grading policy for attendance expectations.

Fundraiser Accounts

The band and choir generally do two to three fundraisers per year. If your student participates in the fundraiser, a percentage of the sales go into their “personal account” and can be used for music-related things, such as books, reed's, Solo & Ensemble, field trips, and instrument repairs. Participation in a fundraiser does not guarantee/reserve any opportunities, it simply contributes to your music account.

Your personal account is kept until you graduate or quit. If you have money remaining after graduation, you may donate it to a younger sibling. If you quit band, you do not get your money back and it cannot be transferred to anyone else.

Uniform Policy for all grades

Remember – you represent your community, your school, and yourself every time you perform. Look your best!

6th Grade Band Uniform:

6th Grade band does not have a specific uniform. You are only asked to wear something “nice,” like you might wear to church, not what you’d wear to play outside. Blue jeans and tennis shoes are not allowed. Good examples of what to wear would be: khaki pants, polo shirts, button-down shirts, skirts, blouses, etc. Dress to impress!

7th/8th Grade Band Uniform:

The 7/8 uniform consists of the collared blue “Grass Lake Warriors” polo shirt. Along with this, the students wear black dress pants or a skirt. Skirts should fall below the knee when standing since when you are sitting, the skirt looks a lot shorter. Black dress shoes and socks are required.

High School Marching Uniform:

The full marching uniform consists of: bibbers, jacket, cape, white gloves, black marching shoes (ordered through the school), black socks, and the hat or beret issued to you. Incomplete or wrinkled uniforms will not be allowed at performances. No excessive makeup. Earrings and piercings should be smaller than ¼ inch in diameter. No chains, bracelets, or watches. No gum or sunglasses. **HAIR SHOULD AS FULLY INSIDE YOUR HAT AS POSSIBLE OR AT A MINIMUM PULLED FULLY BACK.** The uniforms will be stored at school and handed out before performances and collected after. If it rains and your uniform gets wet, hang it up where it can air dry. If you spill something on your uniform or get it dirty, you are responsible for getting it dry cleaned. If you do not arrive with appropriate length black socks you will be given a pair and charged \$3.

High School Concert Band Uniform:

For formal band concert performances, students are issued a blue shirt, and for those who want them a tie and a vest. These are machine washable. Black shoes and socks are also required. Incomplete or wrinkled uniforms will not be allowed at performances. The uniform is to be stored at home. No parts of your uniform should be left at the school at any time. Always hang your uniform on hangers. Memorial day uniform is khaki pants/capris/shorts, the marching band shirt for the year, and tennis shoes of choice. Graduation uniform is dress clothes.

School Instruments

Use of a school instrument will require a signed instrument contract and a \$30 fee which covers yearly maintenance and cleaning only. Any repairs needed that are not the result of normal wear and tear will be completed at a cost of \$10 to the student.

Middle School Band Supply List

For Band Students - Email abby.briggs@grasslakeschools.com for more information

6th -

- All Students - Standards of Excellence Book #1 (red)
- Clarinet, Saxophone players - 3 to 5 reeds to begin the year with (more will be needed second semester, I would recommend Vandoreen 2.5 reeds)
- Trumpet, Baritone - Valve Oil
- Trombone Slide - Grease
- Percussion - Snare Sticks (preferably Vic Firth SD1 General), Medium Hard Yarn wound mallets (preferably Mike Balter Brand), Hard plastic tip xylophone/bell mallets. A stick bag is not required, but is very helpful to keep everything together and safe.
- Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, and Trombone players need their own instrument

7th and 8th -

- All Students - Standards of Excellence Book #1 (red, we will use it for review)
- Clarinet, Saxophone players - 3 to 5 reeds I would recommend Vandoreen 3 reeds
- Trumpet, French Horn, Baritone, Tuba - Valve Oil and slide grease
- Trombone Slide - Grease
- Percussion - Snare Sticks (preferably Vic Firth 5A), Medium Hard Yarn wound mallets (preferably Mike Balter Brand), Hard plastic tip xylophone/bell mallets. A stick bag is not required but is very helpful to keep everything together and safe.
- Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, and Trombone players need their own instrument

Marshall Music (517-337-9700 <https://www.marshallmusic.com>) carries everything students need, they also deliver supplies each week to our school and are able to drop off any ordered items for students. I highly recommend them as

they carry brands that are durable and will allow your child to be successful with good instruments, sticks, and supplies such as reeds.

Other Policies

Please refer to the student handbooks on www.grasslakeschools.com for information about attendance, tardiness, cell phones, and other policies.

Handbook Agreement

Parents and guardians, please read over this handbook with your students and sign below.

I have read the band handbook and am aware of the grading and attendance policies for band. I have kept a copy of the calendar and am aware of all performance dates. I have signed up for Remind.

Student Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

This signed sheet is due to Ms. Briggs by Friday, September 2, 2022