

FLORA ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR HIGH BAND HANDBOOK



2022-2023 School Year
revised 8/15/2022

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF BAND MEMBERS?

You will improve your playing abilities on your instrument and increase your knowledge of music. 4th graders will learn how to assemble, make first sounds and how to play music in a full band. 5th graders will learn how to play in an ensemble, learn new rhythms, focus on reading music proficiently and is the performing band for the elementary school. 6th graders will learn a lot about music, especially focusing on reading music and rhythms that will help you for many years to come. 7th and 8th graders will build on their knowledge, have many performing opportunities, and increase their ensemble awareness and musicianship. Remember that if everyone works hard and does their best then we will all have fun and sound great!

4th graders will begin with group lessons once a week and eventually add in a full band day. Their instruments should **never stay overnight at school**. 5th grade students will have one lesson a week and meet in a full band on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays to begin the year. 5th grade band members must bring their instruments home EVERY FRIDAY, or the last day of the week, but they are encouraged to take them home more frequently. Younger students are learning how to perform a new skill and need to practice every day in order to keep progressing.

Junior high students must take their instruments home on Friday, or the last day of the week. Playing abilities improve when students practice regularly at home.

Band membership is designed for the entire school year. In the event that a student does not wish to fulfill that commitment, their parent or guardian must contact the director **by phone at the end of the current quarter**. Any student who stops coming to band and the director has not been notified by the parent/guardian will earn a letter grade for that nine week period. The best thing to do is to wait and have your child drop at the end of a quarter or to have them stay in band through the school year. *Encouraging your child to finish something they started teaches them a valuable lesson.* Students who do not finish the year in band will not be allowed to attend the band trip at the end of the year.

GRADING

Each quarter will have a different number of points depending on the events that happen during the quarter. Students are required to attend **ALL** performances, so please plan trips and appointments accordingly. Graded activities include Daily Class Participation, Concerts, Parades, BasketBall Games (Junior High), Lessons, Playing Tests, Assignments (playing assignments from lessons, notes home to parents, reading and counting music, etc..) and occasional pencil checks or similar equipment/supplies.

Grade Book Markings: T=Turned in, M= Missing, L = Late, I = Incomplete, X = Exempt or Excused. Please reference the comments of a grade for excused reasons such as absences, medical excuses, etc. These markings in the grade book are for documentation purposes and "X" grades will not count against the student's academic grade.

Participation is very important to being a member of the band. Performances cannot be made up if missed. We work hard for many weeks to prepare for concerts and need everyone there. Although there are many students in band and you are only one person, you are still an important part of the group. By

choosing to be in band you are making a commitment to every activity the band does. We function as a team, similar to sports, and depend on each other to be at all performances.

Each student will have a regular/weekly lesson. Students are expected to attend unless the teacher discusses the situation with Mrs. Combs or Mrs. Hudson. Any missed or unexcused lesson will be a zero in the grade book unless the student makes arrangements to make it up. Lessons missed due to early dismissals, holidays, or school closings will not be counted against the student. Every effort will be made to make-up lessons, if possible, but there are no guarantees due to the tight nature of the lesson schedule.

Practicing is your daily assignment for band. Parents, please encourage your child to practice and help them set up a good practice routine. Students who are new to band (i.e. having less than 1 year of playing experience on a band instrument) will be expected to practice **at least 15 minutes daily** to aid in the learning process.

Unexcused absences for band events include but are not limited to: forgetting, not having a ride, conflicts with non-school functions that are not pre-approved. Excused absences include but are not limited to: death or wedding in the immediate family, absent from school on the date of the event. Please give advance written notice whenever possible and discuss any conflicts with the director rather than skip a band function.

REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

It is important for band members to be at events and performances, however, the directors understand that sometimes absences can be unavoidable. In the event that a student must miss any or all of a performance, students should submit a "Request for Excused Absence" form. This should be filled out **before** the absence. If advance notice is not given, the absence will be considered unexcused; exceptions may be made for last minute emergencies.

Each junior high student is allowed to miss one basketball game. Everyone is busy and I can understand wanting to "take a night-off." ***The request form must be submitted for approval, at least 2 school days before the game.*** This allows the director to approve the request and maintain a balanced instrumentation for the performance. Please note that if advance notice is not given, the student will receive a zero-grade for the basketball game.

MISSED PERFORMANCE GRADING POLICY

If a student must miss a performance, they may choose to complete the alternate assignment to replace the zero grade. The assignment offers a variety of options and is due within one week from the missed performance. Work may be accepted for up to a 100% grade for excused absences only, while unexcused absences may only make up 70% of the missing grade. Please understand that substandard effort/work will not receive full available credit.

SCHOOL/BAND OWNED SUPPLIES

Music will be given to the students throughout the year. All music is considered property of the school and is expected to be returned when it is no longer needed. If a student loses or damages an original they must reimburse the school the replacement cost for each piece of music lost.

In order to learn, students need instruments in good working order. Please see the director as soon as you notice something not playing properly. If something happens to your instrument, it is YOUR responsibility to get it fixed. Loaners are sometimes available through the school or repair shop. Music shops pick up and deliver instruments and any other supplies weekly. If you send in your instrument for repairs, they will contact you with an estimate within 48 hours.

Many school owned music supplies are checked out to students and **must be returned at the end of each school year**. The student/parent/guardian will be expected to pay for any lost or damaged items, at replacement cost. These items may include, but are not limited to, blue band polo, snare drum strap, flip folder, lyre, pep band binders, method books, etc..

If you need to borrow an instrument from the school (baritone, saxophone, etc.), an instrument check out form must be turned in **before** the instrument will be given to the student. Please treat the instrument carefully because if it is damaged by carelessness or mistreated, you will be responsible for repair costs. The school provides the instrument; all other accessories are the responsibility of the student (reeds, oils, neck strap, etc.).

SUPPLIES AND COSTS

Each student will need to purchase the appropriate Essential Elements Book for where they are in the program. Students will purchase Book 1 in 4th grade and by 6th grade will need to have Book 2.

4th Grade: Instrument, Pencil, Essential Elements Book 1 (Percussion will have additional books), name tag on instrument case

5th-8th Grade: Instrument, Pencil Pouch, Pencils, Binder, 20 Sheet Protectors, Appropriate Essential Elements book (1 or 2), name tag on instrument case; Brass players-washcloth (provided)

It is **highly recommended** that all students have their own set of cleaning supplies for their instrument. Prices for cleaning kits vary by instrument, please refer to the Accessories Price List for current prices.

Percussionists should have their **own** snare drum, drum sticks, and bell set labeled with their name. Brass players, please label your supplies, too.

All brass players **must** have valve or slide oil AND grease for their tuning slides! All reed players are expected to have a **minimum** of 3-4 reeds at all times, which will be used on a specific rotational basis.

NEW! In an effort to help alleviate the recurring costs of accessories, the school district will provide reeds, greases, oils, etc. to students, according to their primary instrument. If students use more than the allotted amount for their instrument, or lose their supplies, they will be expected to purchase additional or replacement items. Reed cases should be returned when the student graduates or leaves the Flora Band program. Items will be issued on an as-needed basis.

- Reeds: Clarinets, Alto Sax=3/qtr; Oboe=2/qtr; Tenor Sax, Bass Clarinet, Bari Sax=2 reeds/qtr
- Brass Players: 1 bottle of oil & 1 slide grease at each school (Grades 4, 6, & 9)

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

1. Be in the right PLACE at the right TIME with the right MATERIALS and the right ATTITUDE.
2. Don't do anything to interfere with the ability of yourself or others to LEARN.
3. Don't do anything to interfere with the ability of the directors to TEACH.
4. Be Excellent TO and FOR each other.
5. All equipment and binders must be put away after each rehearsal *large percussion equipment may be left out during the week.

ATTIRE

Please remember that when you are with the band you are representing our organization and school. Your appearance should show pride as a band member and your audience will respect you for it.

Junior High:

- Parades and Contest: Blue Polo (provided by Band Aids) with black pants/bottoms, black socks and black shoes. Polo shirts must be tucked in. All shirts must be returned at the end of the year to prevent unnecessary re-ordering costs.
**** Please check that you have black pants and shoes (and they still fit). If you need any assistance obtaining these required items, please see Mrs. Hudson ASAP!*
- Concerts: Modest, dressy clothes that adhere to the school dress code. Dresses, skirts, slacks or dress pants for girls, slacks or dress pants for boys. NO sleeveless or spaghetti straps. Nothing above the knee. No shirts with writing. No holes or torn apparel. No jeans or denim.
- Basketball: "Flora" Blue/Orange/White shirt, jeans/other school appropriate attire. Go Wolves!

Elementary:

- Concerts: Modest, dressy clothes that adhere to the school dress code. Dresses, skirts, slacks or dress pants for girls, slacks or dress pants for boys. NO sleeveless or spaghetti straps. Nothing above the knee (preferred). No shirts with writing. No holes or torn apparel. No jeans or denim.

FIELD TRIPS

Students must attend the band functions to be able to participate in the field trip. Missing a parade, concert or contest with an unexcused absence or failing a quarter will result in the student's ineligibility to attend the 4th Grade Swim Trip or the Holiday World Trip. The field trip is a *reward* for the participation of the students during the entire school year and should only be awarded to those who deserve it most. The 4th Grade Swim trip is paid for by Band-Aids. Students will be able to participate in the fall fundraiser program to offset the cost of their Holiday World Trip. Many students are able to pay for their trip in full through this fundraiser! We will sell the \$1 candy bars again this year.

EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES!!!

Throughout the year there are extra opportunities for interested band students. These performances will take extra initiative from the students, but can be very rewarding. Practice and/or lesson times are available outside of school hours and will be announced with more information about each individual activity. Opportunities vary by grade, but may include: Solo and Ensemble Contest, Radiothon, Honor Bands, and local community service performances (Heritage Woods and/or nursing homes).

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parents, please watch your email for announcements from Mrs. Hudson or Ms. Lusk throughout the school year. Many papers sent home with students will also be emailed to parents for easier school/home communication. All emails are sent using blind carbon copy (bcc) and will be kept anonymous.

BAND AIDS (PARENTS PLEASE READ!!!)

All parents of band members are a part of the Band-Aids and are vital to the progress and success of our band. We rely on parents to support the program by volunteering for basketball game concessions, helping with fundraisers, chaperoning performances, and most of all the practice and performance of your child. It is very important to encourage your student to practice at home and to commend them when a job is well done. Please sign up to work the 7th/8th grade basketball concession stand. When the band performs at the parades please consider coming along as a chaperone to help supervise the students. The Band-Aids organization needs you! **JR. HIGH CONCESSION SIGN UPS ARE DURING OPEN HOUSE.** 5th Grade will receive a sign up note at a later date. Concessions sign ups will be through the website, SignUpGenius, and a link will be placed on Mrs. Hudson's webpage on floraskools.com.

CONTACT

If you have any questions regarding Band or anything in this handbook please do not hesitate to contact the directors. Contact Stacey Lusk at sluck@floraschools.com or calling the elementary school at 662-2014. Contact Sara Hudson by email shudson@floraschools.com (preferred) or calling the junior high at 662-8394. Please refer to our web pages on floraskools.com for more information. Check in regularly for announcements. You can even print new copies of notes handed out in class.

Digitally “Sign” the Band Handbook using the QR code for your student(s)!

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FHJHS

