

**FLORA ELEMENTARY
AND JUNIOR HIGH BAND
HANDBOOK**



2019-2020 School Year

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 every day. **5th grade band members must bring their instruments home EVERY WEEKEND, and 3 other days during the week**. 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, Basket Ball Games (Junior High), Weekly 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: EX=Excused, AB=Absent, MED=Medical Excuse, *=Dropped Grade. All of these markings in the grade book are for documentation purposes and will not count against the student's 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 weekly lesson. Students are expected to attend unless the teacher discusses the situation with Ms. Ferguson 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. Any lesson 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 no guarantees can be made 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.

Each junior high student is allowed to miss one basketball game. Everyone is busy and I can understand wanting to "take a night-off." ***This absence must be submitted for approval in writing, at least 2 days before the planned absence.*** 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.

Both the elementary and junior high are implementing an online element to band. Each student must have an account and use this account to record playing tests. If you do not have access to a device to record at home we will set up a time for you to come in and do your recordings in the band room. These recordings will help the directors to accurately assess each student on an individual basis since most lessons are done in groups of 2 or more students. 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 should be in Book 2. Each student should be able to log into their account and know their username and password.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

1. Arrive to band on time
2. Warm-up quietly
3. Practice with good posture and playing position (feet flat on floor, sitting straight up, edge of chair)
4. When the director steps on the podium **students will get silent**
5. Respect others the way you would want to be respected
6. Raise your hand when you have a question
7. When the director cuts off the ensemble or the music ends, **wait for feedback and/or instruction**
8. All equipment and folders must be put away after each rehearsal *large percussion equipment may be left out during the week.
9. **NO talking during rehearsal** unless called upon

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 \$3 for each piece of music lost. Method books may cost more to replace.

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 call 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 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

4th Grade: Instrument, Pencil, Essential Elements Book 1

5th-8th Grade: Instrument, Pencil Pouch, Pencils, Binder, 20 Sheet Protectors, Appropriate Essential Elements book (1, 2 or 3)

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 2 reeds at all times (one to play, one spare). Percussionists should have their **own** snare drum, drum sticks, and bell set labeled with their name. Brass players, please label your oil too. Supplies must be purchased with money on hand. Please refer to Band Accessories Price List.

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:

- Parades: Orange Flora Band Shirt (provided by Band Aids), blue jeans with no holes, rips or designs, and dark tennis shoes with no bright, flashy colors.
- 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.

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.

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 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.

CONTACT

If you have any questions regarding Band or anything in this handbook please do not hesitate to contact the directors. Contact Jena Ferguson at jferguson@floraschools.com or calling the elementary school at 662-2014. Contact Sara Hudson by email shudson@floraschools.com or calling the junior high at 662-8394.

Please refer to our web pages on floraschools.com for more information. Check in regularly for announcements. You can even print new copies of notes handed out in class.

BAND HANDBOOK AGREEMENT

Please detach this page and return by _____ for a 10 point grade. Note that both parents and students need to sign the form. Keep this handbook for your records and to know what to expect throughout the year. Let's have a great year in Band!

STUDENTS: I have read and understand the contents of this Band Handbook and have been made aware of the classroom rules and expectations. I know what to expect regarding classroom policies, grading and proper attire. I know that my actions are subject to discipline and will reflect my grade. I agree to follow all rules and will commit myself as an enthusiastic member of the band. I understand I will be responsible for all borrowed materials and will return in good condition at the end of the school year.

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENTS: I will ensure my child is at all band functions and understand what is expected of my student(s) for participation in the band program. I will help them maintain a practice schedule, keep track of borrowed materials and return them at the end of the year.

I am willing to help with Band-Aids whenever there is a need. Circle: YES NO

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Preferred Contact Method(s)

E-Mail: _____

Cell/Phone: _____ Text OK? Yes No

Other: _____