

Orchard Lake Middle School and West Bloomfield High School Band Program



WEST BLOOMFIELD BANDS

Music is a lifelong learning endeavor that teaches skills such as accountability and professionalism, leading to success in many areas of life. Participating in band will create a love and appreciation for music that will carry on through everything that students do.

The following handbook will outline the expectations of band students, concert requirements, grading policy, and just about everything you need to know concerning participation in the band program.

We are looking forward to spending a fantastic school year with our band community. Thank you for helping to make this a great experience for our students!

Noah Dyer/Shelly Rouse-Freitag
Directors of Bands
Orchard Lake Middle School and West Bloomfield High School
noah.dyer@wbsd.org
shelly.rouse-freitag@wbsd.org

Materials Needed:

Pencil

Band folder (provided)

Band book

Music

Instrument

Reeds, Valve or Slide Oil, Cork Grease, etc. (As needed for your instrument)

You will need to have these things with you for every class. Coming to class unprepared (without these materials) will affect your participation grade for the day.

Band Book

OLMS students will need to purchase their own band book at Marshall Music or through another source; the book is theirs to keep, write in, etc. and will not be collected by the school. They generally run around \$15-\$20. If money is a concern, please reach out to me and we will find a solution. The required books are:

6th grade band: Sound Innovations Book One

7th grade band: Essential Elements Book Two

8th grade band: Essential Elements Book Three/Essential Technique (same book, multiple names)

Equipment Requirements:

This outlines what is implied for each student by the word instrument in the necessary materials list.

Woodwind Players are expected to own the following items:

- Cleaning Cloth or Cleaning kit
- Three working reeds (excluding Flute players)
- Cork Grease (excluding Flute players)
- Instrument with case labeled with the student's name, phone number, and address

Brass Players are expected to own the following items:

- Valve Oil
- Tuning Slide Grease
- Trombones only: Trombone slide oil or slide cream (if you use slide cream you will also need a small spray bottle with water)
- Cleaning cloth or Cleaning kit (an old towel and an instrument snake are necessary to give the instrument a bath)
- Instrument with case labeled with the student's name, phone number, and address

Percussion Players will be expected to own their own pair of bell mallets and snare drum sticks. I recommend the Vic Firth SD1 General. All other equipment will be provided.

Students that use a school instrument must submit a School Instrument Use Contract, and are responsible for all repairs due to damage or misuse.

Parents: please contact your insurance company to be sure that your student's instrument is covered by your home owner's or renter's insurance.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Show up to class prepared with all required materials, a positive attitude, and a growth-based mindset.
2. Always be respectful of the band director, classmates, and anyone else who may be in the classroom.
3. Take proper care of instruments and other equipment during class.
4. Do not touch equipment and/or instruments belonging to other students or teachers without permission.
5. The only beverage allowed in the room is water. Food, candy, and gum are not allowed in the room (unless given out by the instrumental music director during class).
6. Follow the instructions given to you during class.
7. Please do not talk or play when it is not your turn to do so.
8. Always remember that we are in band because we enjoy it. It is a lot of work, but we need to have fun in the process of that work.

These are in addition to any expectations students lay out when we make our class social contract as a group (OLMS only)

When a student chooses not to follow the classroom expectations, it will result in one of a variety of potential consequences depending on the frequency and severity of the infraction(s): loss of participation points, an alternative individual assignment, a phone call home, meeting with parents, a discipline referral, etc.

Concert Requirements:

All instrumental music students will be required to attend every performance of the ensemble in which they participate; missing even one person greatly affects the entire group. Any potential conflicts must be communicated to the director at least two weeks in advance of a concert. Missing or arriving late to a performance, not having all of the necessary uniform parts, missing your music or instrument, etc. will result in a 0 or lowered grade for that concert.

We understand that emergencies and conflicts with other school activities occur; we can almost always find a compromise when these are communicated to your instructor as soon as possible. All concert absences will require the parent to personally contact the director.

Concert schedules as well as uniform expectations are outlined on the band website; simply follow the link below and click on your student's band. ***Please note that some students will be required to purchase some uniform parts--for example, white shirts, black socks, etc.*** Again, if money is an issue, please communicate with your instructor so that we can find a solution!

<http://wbbands.info/concert-bands/>

Grading Policies:

Student grades are determined by in-class participation, playing tests and quizzes, at-home practice, recording assignments, and concerts.

Rubric for Daily Participation:

100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%
Shows up to class with all necessary materials, has a positive attitude, prepared for class, and displays proper classroom behavior	Shows up to class lacking a required material, has a positive attitude, prepared for class, and displays proper classroom behavior	Shows up to class lacking some required materials, has a positive attitude, is prepared for class, displays proper classroom behavior	Shows up to class lacking some required materials, has a positive attitude, is partially prepared for class, displays proper classroom behavior for part of the class.	Shows up to class without required materials, has a positive attitude, is partially prepared, does not display proper classroom behavior	Shows up to class without required materials, needs to improve attitude, is not prepared, does not display proper classroom behavior.

If a student has an injury or other reason they are unable to play during class a signed note from the parent explaining the situation is required for the student to be able to earn their full participation points. I will also accept an email from the parent in place of a signed note. Alternative assignments may also be given in appropriate situations.

Rubric for Playing Tests:

	100%	90%	80%	70%	60%
Tone	A consistently fine, characteristic tone for this grade level	Often showing promise; can achieve a characteristic tone, but not consistently	A consistent sound but not a characteristic tone for this instrument and grade level	Has difficulty producing a consistent sound; not a characteristic tone quality	A very poor sound for this grade level, likely the result of poor embouchure, lack of air support, lack of practice

Rhythm, Tempo	A consistently strong and reliable beat; accurate subdivisions demonstrated	Steady beat with few errors; some inaccuracy in subdivisions	Beat is not steady; rhythmic subdivisions not accurately interpreted; understands counting	Demonstrates some cognitive understanding but not able to demonstrate physically	Has no cognitive comprehension and is physically unable to demonstrate rhythm
Pitch Accuracy	Extremely accurate pitch production	Very accurate but with a few minor errors; key is accurate	Several minor errors; key is not clearly understood	Many pitch errors and no clear understanding of key signature	Melody is unrecognizable
Articulation	Very clear physical demonstration of how to articulate; accurately reproduces what's written	Good physical ability; understands musical notation; not totally consistent	Some physical difficulty performing articulation; some confusion about notation	A great deal of physical difficulty; rarely matches written notation	No physical or cognitive concept of articulation demonstrated
Interpretation	Consistently accurate with printed notation, may also introduce personal interpretive ideas	Mostly accurate with printed notation; no personal interpretive ideas	Understands musical ideas but has difficulty expressing them	Does not understand interpretive notation; can not accurately perform it	Performance is difficult or impossible or understand

For playing tests, the above rubric with a score out of ten in each category is used. Homework for band includes recording assignments and at-home practice. Every student should practice at least 20-30 minutes 4-5 times per week. It is very important students play each day. The repetition is critical to muscle memory, muscle development, and is the biggest key to progress and growth as a musician.

The rubric for recording assignments and quizzes is below. It is very similar to the rubric for playing tests, but is not divided into multiple categories

A	B	C	D	E
Demonstrates complete consistency and competency in all aspects of playing (Tone, Pitch/notes, tempo/rhythm, technique/articulation, interpretation)	Demonstrates complete consistency and competency in most aspects of playing OR considerable competency in all aspects	Demonstrates complete consistency and competency in some aspects of playing OR partial competency in all aspects	Demonstrates complete consistency and competency in few aspects of playing OR little competency in all aspects	Demonstrates no consistency or competency

As indicated above, to receive full credit for a concert, students must arrive to the report time *on time* with all necessary materials and conduct themselves in a professional manner when representing the band program. An unexcused absence will result in a 0 for a concert; tardiness, missing uniform parts, unprofessional conduct (speaking during the performance or while other groups are performing, for example) will result in a lowered grade for the concert.

Extra credit will be available throughout the year, usually through attending other West Bloomfield band concerts, or other classical music concerts.

Private lessons are the single best way to help a young musician reach his/her full potential on their instrument and are highly recommended for all students of all abilities. If you are interested, refer to <http://wbbands.info/private-lessons/> or contact your band director for recommendations.

Late work is accepted; one point will be deducted for each day late until a score of 50% is reached, at which point late work will be accepted for 50% credit.

Any policy may be adjusted as necessary during the course of the school year.

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Please sign and return the attached Student Information form by Sept.9, 2019.

This is the first assignment for this class.

NOTE: Your signatures represent that you have read the band and have recorded the concert dates listed

on <http://wbbands.info/concert-bands/> into your family calendar.

First Assignment for Band Class due Sept. 10, 2019

**Orchard Lake Middle School Bands Contract/
Student Information**

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ Instrument: _____

Home street address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Mother's Name: _____ **Father's Name:** _____

Daytime phone: _____

Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

We have read and understand the course guidelines, especially concerning concerts/performances, and have recorded the calendar dates posted on the WB Band website - <http://wbbands.info/concert-bands/>

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

NOTE: Your signatures represent that you have read and understand the syllabus and have recorded the concert dates into your family calendar.

Comments and/or medical conditions I should be aware of (information will remain confidential):