

Black Hawk Middle
School

6th Grade

Band Handbook
2016-2017

Welcome!

From your Directors

Dear Parents and Students,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the exciting world of beginning band! We hope that over the next few years, you will learn many things that will help you succeed in life, as well as band.

Parents, you have chosen an activity for your students that will teach them countless skills that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. Discipline, responsibility, and teamwork are themes that we use on an everyday basis in the BHMS band room. It is our sincere hope that your students will display some of these themes and life lessons out of the band room each day and use them in their other classes and at home.

Enclosed you will find everything you need to know about beginning band. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of us with the information below.

Regards,

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Black Hawk Middle School
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Tom Speers
Warrenton High School
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Guidelines for BMHS and Warrenton Bands

- **Be respectful** towards classmates, teachers, yourself, and equipment.
- **Be an engaged learner** by listening and watching when the teacher or anyone else is speaking.
- **Be responsible** by having your instrument, band book, pencil, and any other materials needed daily.
- **Be caring** by giving others help when they need it and by always being supportive of all of your classmates.
- **Be safe** by always cleaning up after yourself and by touching only items that belong to you.
- **Have fun!** Band is a wonderful activity to be a member of - you'll get out of it what you put into it! Let others see that you love being a member of the band, and BE PROUD of what you are going to be accomplishing this year!

Getting Started

As we get started this semester, there are some supplies that **YOU** will need to bring:

- 1" Binder
- Pencils (Pens are NOT Pencils!)
- A working instrument (If you have any questions, ask Mr. Perry or Mr. Speers)
- Valve, Slide or Rotor Oil (For Trumpets, Trombones, Baritones, or French Horn)
- Extra Reeds (Clarinet and Saxophone)
- Drum Sticks and Mallets

These are the preferred brand of products that we recommend.

Valve Oil- "Al Cass Super Fast Valve, Slide and Key Oil"

Slide Cream- "Slide-O-Mix, Rapid Comfort"

Clarinet Reed- "Vandoren, Clarinet Reeds 3 Strength"

Alto Saxophone- "Vandoren, Alto Saxophone Reeds 3 Strength"

We will provide you with our book for the year, **Standard of Excellence, Book 1.**

Beginning Band Instrument Night

Beginning band night is an evening in which we invite all parents and students of the 6th grade beginning band to get setup with instrument rentals for the 2015-2016 year. Music representatives from two different music stores will be on hand to show students the instruments and discuss rental/purchase procedures. Please contact Mr. Perry immediately if you cannot attend.

Beginning Band Night
Thursday, August 18th, BHMS Commons
Brass/Percussion- 7:00 p.m.
Woodwinds- 8:00 p.m.

A Note About Quality Instruments

Please consider renting/buying instruments from one of the two music stores that will be represented at our Beginning Band Night or another reputable music store. This will ensure a high quality of satisfaction, customer service and repair needs. Instruments bought at Wal-Mart, Sears, Sam's Club, and internet auction sites carry little or no warranties/repair policies. Such instruments have also been proven, over time, to cost significantly more than those purchased through your local music store. They are made of inferior materials, and in turn, offer an inferior sound quality and will frustrate your child during their time learning their instrument. If you already have an instrument OR you are considering purchasing one from eBay, Amazon, or another online source, please contact Mr. Perry or Mr. Speers before purchasing the instrument.

Grades

Yes, there are going to be grades in band! Grades will be determined from the following criteria:

- Attendance/Participation
- Daily Theory Sheets
- Google Voice Call In's
- Playing Test/Check-offs
- Concert Attendance

Attendance/Participation

Attendance and participation points will be given to students each day that they are present and actively participating in band. To receive these points, they **MUST** have their Instrument, Binder, and Pencil. Students who are absent from school the entire day or partial day (Early Parent Pick-Up) will not be penalized for missing school. If a trend starts of students coming to band without their instrument or other necessary supplies, a phone call will be made to the parents or guardians and an action will need to be taken. I am very empathetic and I do understand that sometimes we all forget.

Daily Theory Sheets/Practice Time

Just like athletics and academics, the results that you get out of band are determined by the amount of time that you put in. To make sure that your students gets the most out of band and is given the best opportunity to succeed on their instrument, I ask that each student practices at least **70 minutes per week**. This amount of time will help your student develop endurance and technical skills on their instrument that we can refine and expand upon in the classroom.

Daily Theory Sheets will be handed in every two weeks and are graded on a complete or incomplete basis, not right or wrong. These should be kept with the students in their binders at all times and will be used daily. If a student loses their sheet before turning it in, an alternate assignment may be issued.

Google Voice Call In's

A Google Voice Call In is a way for Mr. Perry and Mr. Speers to hear 150+ students and assess their progress within a relatively short amount of time without losing any in class instructional time. There will be at least one Google Voice Call In assignment per quarter and students will given one week to complete the assignment unless noted otherwise. There will also be information sheets handed out with each assignment and full instructions how to complete the call in. If your student will have problems calling in at home, please contact Mr. Perry or Mr. Speers ASAP so we can make arrangements for the student to complete their assignment.

Playing Tests/Check-offs

Playing tests and Check-offs are given each quarter and offer the directors and opportunity to assess the strengths, weaknesses, and overall level of your student's playing ability. These are given on a pass/fail basis and can be taken as many times as needed to pass. The point of these are not to give you a bad grade, they are to make sure that you are doing well and can receive the help you may be needing. These should be submitted weekly through Google Voice Mail to Mr. Perry or Mr. Speers.

Concert Attendance/Attire

Attendance at our concerts is mandatory for every student involved in 6th grade band. We do not have very many concerts, therefore, each concert is very important to be at and to participate in. If there are **ANY** time conflicts or other situations about missing a concert, please notify Mr. Perry as soon as possible and we will try and figure something out. Band is a team activity and we are not a complete team if we are missing even one person. Concert attire is also very important as it projects professionalism, being part of a team, as well as giving the students a confidence boost during their performance. Concert attire for the 6th Grade Concert band will be as follows.

Boys

Dress Shoes

Khakis or Slacks (no Jeans or shorts)

Dress Shirt or Polo (tucked in)

Ties are optional

Girls

Flats or Heels (at your own risk)

Knee Length Skirt, Dress, or Dress Pants (no denim)

Dress Shirt (no spaghetti straps)

Cardigans, Jewelry, or other accessories optional

Web-Wednesdays

Technology is all around us and can be a wonderful addition to the classroom. I would like to extend an invitation to all 6th grade students to research videos, articles, and anything else related to band or their instrument and share it with others. To submit these to me, you can go to the "Narnia" tab on our website and input your name and copy and paste a link to whatever you think is cool! I will chose one or two each week and share them on Wednesdays during class. This isn't mandatory and is just to encourage the students to learn more about their instruments, music, band, and musicians that were once in their shoes.

Find us on the Internet!

Black Hawk Middle School Bands has a website that has copies of this handbook as well as a full calendar, information about Mr. Perry and Mr. Speers, contact information, links to Google Voice Mail and other band related information. The address is as follows:

www.blackhawkbands.weebly.com

Please sign and return the following page to show that you and your parents have read the handbook accordingly.

Handbook Agreement

I, _____, (please print) and my parents or guardians have read and understand the Blackhawk Middle School 6th Grade Handbook. I also agree to follow and comply with the rules and procedures in this handbook and do so with a positive attitude. I also have read and understand that we have ***three*** mandatory concerts that are scheduled for **Tuesday, October 4th; Tuesday, December 20th; Thursday, May 11th**.

Student Signature _____

Parent or Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

HANG THIS PAGE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR

Our concert dates are:

**Tuesday, October 4th, 2016-7:00 p.m.
Daniel Boone Wood Floor Gym**

**Tuesday, December 20th, 2016-7:00 pm
WHS Commons**

**Thursday, May 11th, 2017-7:00 pm WHS
Commons**