

Black Hawk Middle  
School

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Band Handbook  
2016-2017

# Welcome!

## From Mr. Perry

Dear Parents and Students,

I want to welcome you back to the exciting world of band! I hope that over the summer you have had a chance to have some fun and play your instruments a bit, too! This year is going to be fantastic and will start with making music on day one. Please read this handbook and feel free to contact me with any questions at all. I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you!

Thomas Perry  
Band Director-Black Hawk Middle School  
Asst. Band Director-Warrenton High School

## Contact Information

Thomas Perry  
Black Hawk Middle School  
Phone: (636)-456-6903 ext. 3124  
Email: [Perrytg@warrencor3.k12.mo.us](mailto:Perrytg@warrencor3.k12.mo.us)

## 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, Baritones, or French Horn)
- Extra Reeds (Clarinet and Saxophone)
- Drum Sticks and Mallets

We will provide you with our book for the year, *Excercises in Ensemble Drill*

## 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/Practice Time
- Google Voice Call In'
- 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert band will be as follows.

### Boys

Black Dress Shoes  
Black Dress Socks  
Black Dress Pants  
White Dress Shirt (tucked in)  
Ties are optional

### Girls

Black Flats or Heels (at your own risk)  
Black ***Knee Length*** Skirt, Dress, or Pants  
White Blouse or Dress Shirt (no spaghetti straps)  
Cardigans, Jewelry, or other accessories optional

## Six Flags Music Festival

The 8th Grade band will get the opportunity to perform at the 2017 Six Flags Music Festival on Friday, April 28th, 2017. The approximate cost for this trip is \$55.00 (includes Park Ticket and Festival Admission) and can be split up into separate payments to accommodate everyone. We will start preparations by turning in intent forms before Winter Break and will begin collecting money in January. More information on this exciting opportunity will be sent home via email and handouts through this semester.

## 8th Grade Marching Band “Shadowing” Night

The 8th grade band will be given the opportunity to “shadow” the high school Marching Warriors Band at the Friday, September 16th Warriors Football Game. We will be wearing our Black Hawk Middle School Band Shirts, as well as Khakis (shorts or pants) and tennis shoes. This performance will give the students an opportunity to experience what is in store for them when they get to high school band. They will be performing in the stands with the band, as well as the National Anthem and Pregame Fight-Song. More information is to follow.

## Pep Band Performances

There will be multiple opportunities throughout the year for the 8th grade pep band to perform, including Pep Assemblies, home BHMS basketball games, and more. It is important that the students attend these events if at all possible so that we can have a strong and entertaining performance that will promote school pride at these events. Information will be sent home far in advance for these performances.

## **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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 ***two*** mandatory concerts that are scheduled for **Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>; Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**HANG THIS PAGE ON  
YOUR  
REFRIGERATOR**

Our concert dates are:

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

**Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017-7:00 pm  
WHS Commons**