

# NOE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

Beth Lyles – Director  
[Elizabeth.Lyles@jefferson.kyschools.us](mailto:Elizabeth.Lyles@jefferson.kyschools.us)

458-8307

Welcome to the Noe Middle School Band! The start of a new school year brings new expectations and procedures. In order for all students to be successful and for the band to achieve high levels of musicianship, it is important that the band room rehearsal environment be conducive to learning. This handbook will help students and parents to understand the expectations of the classroom. Please read carefully and return the attached sheet to the band room by August 17.

## Materials

The following materials are required for class every day.

1. Instrument
2. Appropriate accessories (reeds, neck strap, cork grease, oil, sticks, etc.)
3. Music and Folder (provided)
4. Pencil
5. Notebook (provided)
6. Agenda

## Grading

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Daily Participation Grade                        | 40% |
| Written Tests and Portfolio                      | 20% |
| Class Performance                                | 20% |
| Written Work (homework, practice logs, notebook) | 10% |
| Semester Assessment (Performance)                | 10% |

Most classes will begin with a notebook activity. This needs to be completed within five minutes of entering the class room. Notebooks will be graded a minimum of one time per grading period. Daily checks may be made to make sure the notebook is completed. Notebooks are not to be taken from the band room. Daily participation grade is earned by fully engaging in all the activities each class day. This includes being ready and seated on time, completing the notebook activity, exhibiting proper rehearsal etiquette, and properly cleaning and storing equipment. Individual preparation of music will be assessed during in-class performance or recorded in Mrs. Lyles' office.

## Performances

Students will participate in at least two performances outside of the school day. These are scheduled well in advance. Performances are considered semester assessment. **Our band depends on every student.** If a band member is unable to attend a performance, a note from the parent/guardian must be presented to the director **before** the performance stating why the student cannot attend, and giving a phone number where the parent/guardian can be reached for a telephone conference. Students unable to participate in an evening performance will be given an alternate assignment as a performance grade in place of the concert.

I am just becoming familiar with the Parent Portal for grades. I will do all that I can to utilize this for communicating with parents about grades and other band news.

### **Classroom Procedures and Expectations**

- Enter room quickly and quietly.
- Check board or overhead for the agenda
- Quickly be seated with all necessary materials. Small instrument cases may be stored under chairs, large ones must be kept out of the way of moving students.
- Complete notebook activity and put music in order.
- Participate in rehearsal and other classroom activities.
- Store instrument and supplies and line up with team.
- Give attention and respect to whoever is speaking.
- Practice so that you make a positive contribution to the group.
- Respect each other's personal space and property
- Follow the JCPS Code of Conduct.
- Be a responsible member of the Noe Middle School Band.

Failure to follow classroom procedures or to meet the above expectations can result in a lowered daily participation grade, lowered conduct grade and disciplinary action.

### **Home Practice**

All students must come to class well prepared. **This means practicing at home.** Weekly practice logs will be collected each Friday. This must be filled out completely and signed by the parent or guardian. See the attached practice log for further explanation.

### **Woodwind and Brass Instruments**

Students will be able to rent an instrument from the school at a cost of \$40.00 for the entire school year. All students renting from the school must return an instrument rental agreement form (with parent or guardian signature) to the band director. Students on fee waiver do not have to pay this fee, but must still return the rental form. Please do this immediately, even if you have not decided on an instrument. This will let me know who plans to use a school instrument. Instruments are also available for rental from local music stores. If you plan on purchasing a new or used instrument from an individual or store, I encourage you to make sure it is in good working condition. Please purchase instruments from music stores, not from discount stores. **WARNING:** There are some very poorly constructed new instruments widely available in stores and on the internet. Please be careful. Contact me if you have questions. Many times you are better off with a used instrument than a poorly made new one.

### **Percussion**

Students who wish to play percussion are expected to learn to play all the instruments of the percussion section. In sixth grade this means that the daily emphasis will be on keyboard percussion (bells, marimba, xylophone) and snare drum. Instead of practicing one instrument, they will be practicing two. As the student progresses, other instruments such as bass drum, timpani, cymbals, triangle and other auxiliary instruments will be added. Students must have good organizational skills, be detail oriented, hard-working, and willing to play whatever instrument is assigned to them. In the event that too many students are interested in percussion, some students may be asked to choose a different instrument. Percussion must have a snare drum **or** practice pad at home, as well

as a set of bells. These are often available as a set for a low rental cost at most area music stores. Sixth grade students will need to purchase a pair of Vic Firth General SD1 sticks.

### **Supplies for Instruments**

Clarinet, Sax: three #3 strength reeds (beginners: Rico, advanced: Van Doren), cork grease, swab, strap (sax only)

Flute: cleaning rod, cloth handkerchief

Oboe, Bassoon: reed, cork grease, swab

French Horn: rotor oil, cloth

Trumpet, Baritone, Tuba: valve oil, cloth

Trombone: Super Slick slide cream, cloth

Percussion: Vic Firth General SD 1 sticks

School owned instruments will come with oils and greases. The cloth for brass instruments can be a wash cloth or other absorbent material. Supplies are to be used in the proper way in order to maintain the instruments. Students who lose or use up the supplies will be required to purchase more. Reeds and some other accessories will be available for purchase at school. Please note that students who play reed instruments (clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon) will need to purchase reeds throughout the school year.

### **Music**

Music and music books are provided to the student at no cost. Students will be required to pay for lost or damaged books and music. Some books will include a CD and/or a DVD. These must be returned when the students turn in their books. These are a great tool that can be used at home when practicing. Books are not to be folded or stored in instrument cases as this damages both the book and the instrument. Music and other handouts are to be stored in the provided band folder.

### **Concert Attire**

Please make sure that you have the following for performances:

- Dressy/Plain white shirt/blouses – tucked in
- Dress black pants/skirts
- Dress black shoes and socks/tights

I have a small collection of concert shirts, pants and shoes that parents have donated as their children have outgrown them. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to use these items. **Remember**, the point of a uniform is so that the whole group looks the same. We don't want anyone to draw attention away from the music. Concerts are formal occasions!

### **Fundraiser**

Our yearly fundraiser will begin September 15. This is a brochure sale and it has been hugely successful in the past. It is important that the band continues to be successful in this endeavor so that students and parents do not have to pay fees for the things that we need. A band program of this size has many expenses. Some of the things that we must pay for include: KMEA (Ky. Music Educators Assoc.) fees for concert band festival and solo and ensemble festival, all-county band, music, instruments, buses, awards, instrument repair, accessories, paper, etc. Please help out in this endeavor. Check yes or no on the attached page to indicate if your child has permission to participate in the fundraiser. If you are not participating, please consider a donation to the band. **All band students benefit from the money we raise.**

### **T-Shirt**

Band t-shirts will be available later in the fall. Seventh and eighth grade band members must purchase a t-shirt for certain performances. The t-shirt is optional for 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The exact price is unknown at this time, but they usually are \$6 or \$7.

### **All-County Band**

Each year the Jefferson County Public Schools has a middle school band comprised of students from across the county. These students are selected through an audition process. All experienced band students are encouraged to audition. Audition music will be available the second or third week of school. Students selected to the band participate in three rehearsals and a concert. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to not only represent Noe Middle School, but to learn from a wonderful musical experience. Younger students are encouraged to audition even if only to gain audition experience. Our band has traditionally had many students selected for this group. Auditions will be held October 22 at JCTMS. More information will be sent home later.

### **KMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival**

Students will have an opportunity to prepare a solo and /or ensemble to be rated by a judge. Each student or ensemble receives a rating and a comment sheet from the judge concerning their performance. This is a very worthwhile activity for all students. Most of our band students participated in this event last year and many distinguished ratings were received. This event is usually in February at Atherton High School. Parent volunteers will be needed throughout January to help prepare for the festival.

### **KMEA Concert Band Festival**

This event involves the entire band and is similar to the solo and ensemble event. This event is in late March.

### **Private Lessons**

Private lessons are a great way to help your child progress rapidly on their instrument. There are many private lesson teachers in Louisville. If you are interested in this option for your student I will be glad to assist in finding a teacher.

### **Volunteers**

I highly encourage all parents to fill out the School Volunteer Records Check in case you chaperone one of our events. Please check any activities you may be interested in helping with on the attached page.

### **After School Help**

Students who wish to receive extra help may set up a time with the director. The director will need a note or email from the parent stating that it is okay for the student to stay and the time that the student will be picked up.

### **Jazz Band**

This is an after-school group that meets on Thursdays. Students may audition on saxophone, trumpet, trombone (baritone), piano, bass, or drum set. Auditions will be held in September. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances.

### **Kings Island**

We take a fun trip in May. You will receive information in the spring.

### **SmartMusic**

I will demonstrate this computer program to students in class and to parents during open house. SmartMusic is an interactive music practice system. It provides students with a fun way to practice at home. We will be using this program at school for

testing and practice purposes. I highly recommend that each student who has a computer at home to purchase this program. Information is available at [www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com)

**School Website**

Information about band activities will be available on the school website. Please check regularly for updates.

**Dates (tentative-there will be more)**

Sept. 14 fundraiser begins, Sept. 29 fundraiser ends, October 25 product arrives  
Oct. 22 All-County Band auditions Nov. 17, 19, 23 All-County Band rehearsals JCTMS  
Nov. 23 All-County Band Concert Male H.S.  
Dec. 10 Winter Concert Dec. 11 Adv. Band Only-School Concert  
Feb. 20– Solo and Ensembles March 23-25 – KMEA Festival May ? Spring Concert and Kings Island

**Keep this handbook for future reference.**

**Return the attached signature page by August 17.**

**If you are using a school instrument, return the rental form by August 17.**

Parent/Student Signature Sheet:

**RETURN TO BANDROOM BY MONDAY, AUGUST 17**

This signature is the first homework grade! Please get it in on time.

*The handbook is a summary of the expectations of members of the Noe Middle School Band program. It is essential that each student and parent read this together and understand the information. Please sign below to indicate that the handbook has been read and that the policies are understood.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
parent signature

Information- Please print

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name

H \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Numbers (home, cell, work)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name

H \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Numbers (home, cell, work)

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail – please write neatly

It would also be helpful if you would send me an email with your child's name in the subject line so that I can easily make a distribution list.

Fundraiser Permission

It's not until September 15, but we can go ahead and give permission on this sheet

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, my student can participate.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, my student cannot participate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

Volunteers

Please check if you can help with any of the following:

\_\_\_\_ chaperoning field trip

\_\_\_\_ Providing refreshments for after concerts

\_\_\_\_ helping with fundraiser

\_\_\_\_ Help with refreshment set-up

\_\_\_\_ providing truck or van for transporting instruments

\_\_\_\_ photographing performances and other events

\_\_\_\_ helping tutor or supervise students preparing solo and ensembles (This would be in January and February. Musicians and non-musicians needed.)