

Meigs Middle School

*150 Richbourg Avenue
Shalimar, FL 32579*

BEGINNING BAND HANDBOOK 2022-2023



Mrs. Melissa Bowell, Principal

Mr. Daniel Cooke, Band Director
Mr. Brent Purcell, Percussion Instructor

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(850) 833-4301 ext. 25278

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Meigs Middle School Band program! We are excited that you have chosen to become a member of our band program. Together, we will create a positive and rewarding musical experience through the study of a variety of music while offering a safe, FUN, and educational experience that you will remember and appreciate for the rest of your life!

The mission of the Meigs Middle School Bands is to team with parents, students, and the school to provide an atmosphere where students progress musically and academically as an ensemble while maintaining a commitment to excellence within each student. We strongly believe that music is a part of a student's comprehensive education.

Throughout the school year our ensembles will perform at special events on and off campus, which may include: Holiday Concert, Spring Concert, Community Events, Recruitment Concerts, and more! None of these events, however, would be possible without the procedures, rules, rehearsals, and grading policies that this handbook will outline. The information in this packet will provide each student with an understanding of how he/she may best contribute to the productivity and overall success of the program as well as how student grades will be determined.

Please take the time to review these rules and grading policies, and make yourself aware of the proposed extra rehearsals, events, requirements, instrument care, materials, concert attire, etc. If a problem should arise, consult the handbook first. If you still cannot find the answer, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We look forward to meeting you and sharing wonderful memories this year! Thank you so much for the amazing and humbling opportunity to lead you and your student(s) in your musical endeavors here at Meigs Middle School!

Mr. Daniel Cooke
Director of Bands

Why are BAND KIDS so SUCCESSFUL?

- It's an elective which means we chose to be here! Be the first, not the last, ready for rehearsal
- We demonstrate **desire, spirit, and enthusiasm** for learning
- We **prepare** and master our part of the performance so that the group may succeed as a **TEAM**
- We remain **focused** in rehearsal since our time together is limited
- We are **mindful** and **respectful** of the director's instruction and the commitment of the other members at all times
- We choose to **support** one another and build each other up **#bandfamily**
- When we experience failure, we analyze and make a plan to **improve** in order to succeed the next time
- We are students that the director can count on and **trust**
- We are **humble** in our successes, both as individual musicians and as a band
- We understand that we are **representing our program, school, and county** at all times and choose to carry ourselves with **poise and class**
- We practice giving **100%** even though we will experience challenges and setbacks

ONE RULE FOR BAND:

1. *Respect EVERYTHING and EVERYONE*

Wildcat Way: * Be Safe * Be Respectful * Be Responsible * Own Your Actions

Performance Ensembles:

Beginning Band

The Beginning Band is open to ANY student at MMS and is designed for new members with little or NO prior experience. Students will try every instrument in the band and begin to learn the basic skills necessary to read music and will perform both alone and with the full ensemble. This year, Beginning Band will be divided into three sections: Brass, Woodwind, and Percussion. There will be no required commitment outside of school for this class aside for 2 concerts in the Fall and 1 in the Spring.

Concert Band

Concert Band is generally composed of second-year musicians; therefore, this class is designed for the continued development of basic fundamentals, technique, and musicianship skills through personal goal setting. Students in this ensemble will participate in Football Band and perform at the home football games. This ensemble may also perform at the state band assessment (MPA) every year and will also perform concerts in the Fall and Spring. Participation in Solo and Ensemble Festival in the Spring may be encouraged as a performance opportunity.

Symphonic Band

Symphonic Band is composed of the most advanced musicians in the band program and performs a variety of literature in concerts across the region and the state. Selective membership is based on audition and director recommendation. Since the majority of the students in the Symphonic Band will likely be third year musicians, this class is designed to further the development of fundamentals in technique and musicianship that will serve to prepare musicians for entry into the Crestview High School Band Program. These basic skills and proficiencies will guide daily instruction and musical selections. Students in this ensemble will participate in Football Band and will perform at the home football games. This ensemble also performs at the state band assessment (MPA) every year and will also perform concerts in the Fall and Spring. Participation in Solo and Ensemble Festival in the Spring will be highly encouraged as a performance opportunity.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band will meet before school once a week in the fall and twice a week in the spring. All instruments are welcome with director discretion, and students are encouraged to take up a second instrument if interested!

Football Band

In Okaloosa County, middle school band students have the unique opportunity to perform as a Pep Band during the home football games! This ensemble is made up of students who are in Concert Band and Symphonic Band. Participation in Football Band is mandatory for these students. Because Beginning Band students do not yet possess the performance skills necessary to play in this group, they are not eligible for Football Band. In addition to performing at the home football games, this ensemble will also participate in school pep rallies, spirit events, and the Fort Walton

Beach Christmas Parade on December 5th. Attendance at games is mandatory, and if your student is involved in other activities during the game, (football, cheerleading, etc.), arrangements will be made for them to participate in the Half Time Performance.

Grading Policy

Pass-Offs (50%)

Rehearsals/Performances (30%)

Participation (20%)

SPECIAL NOTE: The curriculum that we use for this class will involve method book instruction as well as supplementary material (scale sheets, etc.). The class objective will be to complete requirements for membership in Concert Band, Symphonic Band or Jazz Band by the end of the year.

Pass-Offs (50%)

Grades in band are earned by using the Pass-Off system. This means that the student is responsible for passing off a certain number of designated pass-off lines in the method book during each grading period. These assessments are posted at the beginning of each 9-weeks and serve as the core of the band curriculum for the school year. They are divided into a systematic and progressive series of exercises and evaluations that serve to prepare the students for membership in Concert Band, Symphonic Band or Jazz Band by the end of the year.

In order to be “passed off” on the line, scale, or exercise, it must be performed with less than 3 mistakes live or in a recording. Students must demonstrate good posture, correct holding of the instrument, good tone, and tap the toe while playing. If the recording is not of good quality or the teacher does not deem it successful, the student will have to re-attempt the pass-off. A pass off should be considered a test. There will be written and playing pass offs.

Rehearsals/Performances (30%)

This grading category is based on attendance and behavior at after-school band events. In this case, concerts.

There will be not be consistent after-school requirements for this class. This is a co-curricular class, which means performances and rehearsals will take place outside of the school day, and you are expected to be at all performances and rehearsals unless sick or excused in advance. An absence from a performance will be excused for the following reasons: sickness, death in the family or written excuse PRIOR TO the absence and excused by the director. Oral permission may be granted in exceptional cases. In making your request, give the director enough information to adequately assess the situation. It may be necessary to make up an excused absence by completing an assignment to be given by the director. There are no provisions for making up unexcused absences. If there is any doubt about whether an absence will be excused or not, see Mr. Cooke before the absence.

Students will not be excused from a performance for a non-school activity (travel soccer, travel baseball, etc.). Due to the “team” nature of a band, **parents are requested NOT to withhold attendance at rehearsals or performances as a means of punishment for issues unrelated to this class.** As of today, you know when all concerts and performance events are scheduled. Therefore, we kindly ask that all appointments be scheduled so that they do NOT conflict with our band calendar. Since participation in band activities correlates with the grading policy, students will receive a 0% as a test grade for every unexcused absence in band events.

Concert Etiquette includes wearing the proper attire as outlined below and acting appropriately and respectfully during the concert. This includes while your band is performing or if you are listening to other bands. If the band director or a parent volunteer deems your actions as being inappropriate, you could earn a 0% as a test grade for the performance.

Concert Dates:

Beginning Band Concert: October 27 @ Meigs Cafeteria

Holiday Concert: December 8 @ Choctawhatchee High School

Spring Concert: April 18 @ Choctawhatchee High School

Concert Attire and Etiquette:

- Long blue jeans *no holes or rips whatsoever
- Belt
- Close-Toed Shoes
- Band shirt

Participation (20%)

As band is a performance-based class, all students are required to participate and play in class. To receive a 100% in this area, bring your instrument, book, and pencil to class each day. Any time a student is not prepared for class and does not have their instrument, their method book, or a pencil, they will lose 3 participation points per occurrence.

Students must also play their instrument during class time when instructed. A doctors note or signed note from a parent is required for students who may not be able to play due to injury. Anytime that a student is not playing without a written excuse, they will lose 3 participation points per occurrence.

Daily Rules and Procedures

The following are guidelines for a successful rehearsal and should be considered and treated as rules. Rule violations incur a penalty on either the students' participation grade or in consequential action.

1. Be in your seat, with your instrument, music, and all materials (this includes a pencil) no later than three minutes after the tardy bell. Students who are tardy with a pass will be admitted with no penalty
2. Sanitize your hands when entering and exiting the classroom.
3. Once the director steps up to the podium, no further talking will be permitted.
4. Students will NOT play their instruments before or after class, or without permission. If there is a continued disruption, that student will be asked to pack up for the day.
5. **Students will NOT play or touch other student instruments or equipment EVER. This includes percussion and all school-owned instruments, sticks, mouthpieces, reeds, and equipment.**
6. All backpacks, instrument cases, equipment not needed for rehearsal should be placed neatly against the wall and out of the way – NOT at your seat or around the classroom.
7. Music stands are for holding music only (not phones) and are not to be shared during class. *Any defacing of school property will result in ISS and/or a police report.*
8. If it becomes necessary to take your instrument to a repair shop, please remember to bring a signed note from home, your mouthpiece, and music. There is a possibility that a temporary instrument may be provided in class.
9. Do NOT leave your instrument or music in the band room over the weekend. Doing so will prohibit you from practicing and meeting your goals!
10. Only one student may leave the classroom at a time with teacher permission and must sign out and carry a pass.
11. Leave the band room cleaner than you found it.

Bathroom and Sign-Out Rules

The Band Room has bathrooms right outside the building; they are to be kept clean and anything out of order should be reported to the Band Director immediately for custodial attention. No Bathroom Pass shall be given in the first or last 10 minutes of band class; medical emergencies will be addressed as needed. **Only one student may be in the bathroom at a time** and all students are expected to use the restroom prior to classroom instruction. If the privilege is abused, or if the facility is not taken care of, then no further bathroom breaks will be permitted during class.

The Replacement of Music

Replacement of lost or damaged music is expensive and time consuming. Each band member is responsible for the music issued to him/her. The following guidelines will be observed:

- NO SHARING MUSIC AT ALL, EVER!!!!!! For accountability purposes, students must have their OWN copy to practice at home and at school

- Music left in the band room without a name on it will be placed in the trash can. All others will be placed in the Bad Vibes Box ☹
- Students are not to have original copies of music for any reason

Discipline

This band program runs off of commitment, teamwork, structure, and cooperation since everyone is striving toward a common goal. We are asking students to have these adult responsibilities at a time where they are struggling to find their own individual identity. Please understand that being a part of a team requires patience, respect, and sacrifice. Disruptions, disrespect, or inappropriate behavior will **NOT** be tolerated whatsoever. Band students are expected to display exceptional behavior in **ALL** their classes as they are seen as a member of the band wherever they are. Students who receive 3 or more office referrals or receive a grade lower than a C average for their semester grade in ANY class will not be eligible to participate in certain band events/activities throughout the school year. As attendance in performances is a required part of this performance-based class, failure to notify the director of absences, excessive absenteeism, inappropriate behavior in any class, or other actions deemed inappropriate and disruptive by the director may cause a student to be ineligible to participate in an event or in the program going forward.

The discipline policy of the school will be used in the band classroom at all times and at all band events. Accordingly, a disruption, lack of respect, or inappropriate behavior will first be addressed with a teacher warning. Severe breaches of the OCSD Code of Conduct may necessitate skipping steps in the discipline plan. A continued disturbance will be dealt with by using the following consequences:

- 1. Individual Warning.**
- 2. Possible change or moving of seating OR student maybe asked to pack up belongings and complete an alternative assignment. Parent will be notified over the phone.**
- 3. Student will be written up and discipline will be decided by the front office (detention, ISS, OSS, etc.). Parent will be notified for Parent/Teacher Conference.**
- 4. Upon repeated unacceptable behavior, student may be removed from band entirely**

Required Materials

“Tradition of Excellence Book 1” Comprehensive Band Method Book for your specific instrument.

BEGINNING PERCUSSION: In addition to this above book, please also purchase: “A Fresh Approach to Snare Drum” by Mark Wessels

- Method Book
- Music in folder (Folder provided)
- Pencil with eraser
- Individualized materials shown blow

Individualized Materials

<p>Flute: swab cloth</p>	<p>Clarinets: Reeds (at least 5 at all times), cork grease Recommended reeds: Vandoren 2 ½-3.5 strength</p>
<p>Oboes and Bassoons: These instruments are available for rent from MMS. Students must have at least 2 reeds available at all times. It is recommended that you purchase these from a dealer who makes them by hand rather than manufacturers. They last longer and have a better-quality sound.</p>	<p>Saxophones: Reeds (at least 5 at all times) Recommended: Vandoren strength 2 ½ - 3</p>
<p>Trumpet: Mouthpiece, valve oil, and slide grease Recommended mouthpiece size: 11B4 or 7C</p>	<p>Trombones: Mouthpiece, Slide cream/oil, small spray bottle for water Recommended mouthpiece size: 6 ½ AL</p>
<p>French Horns: Mouthpiece, rotary oil, and slide grease Recommended mouthpiece size: 32C4</p>	<p>Euphoniums: Mouthpiece, valve oil, slide grease Recommended mouthpiece size: 6 ½ AL</p>
<p>Tuba: Mouthpiece, tuning slide grease, and valve oil Recommended mouthpiece size: Bach 18, Yamaha 66, Conn or Schilke</p>	<p>Beginning Percussion: Standard beginning band bell kit with practice pad (can be rented/purchased from Playground Music Center) and Vic Firth 5B wooden tip drum sticks</p>

Renting/Buying Instruments

Playground Music Center	Schmidt's Music	Upbeat Music
<p>429 Mary Esther Cut-Off NW, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 (850) 243-2514</p>	<p>105 N Palafox St Pensacola, FL 32502 (850) 434-0317</p>	<p>913 Beal Pkway NW Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547</p> <p>316 US-90 Crestview, FL 32536 (850) 398-4009</p>

Instrument Fitting and Selection

Please DO NOT purchase or rent an instrument without first consulting the Director!

For beginners who have not already done so, we will be doing instrument trial sessions the first week of school so that the students can experience playing ALL of the instruments before they have to decide on their favorite to play for the remainder of the school year.

Extra Costs

Some fees are collected to help pay for instrument maintenance and extra opportunities for certain instrument groups. Percussion students have an additional fee to pay for their percussion instruction (a separate teacher that works with Percussions students only during the school day) and for the maintenance or purchase of the many instruments they need during the school year. School-owned instrument usage costs are applicable to students who use a school instrument rather than renting from a music store. This fee covers annual cleaning, routine maintenance, and emergency maintenance. Optional fees are listed for students who want to participate in extra performance opportunities or want to purchase a band shirt. The fees are as follows:

Percussion Students: \$100

School-Owned Instrument Usage: \$120

Band Shirts: \$15

School Owned Instrument Usage

The Meigs Middle School band program owns limited instruments for student use. There is a \$120 per year fee for all instruments that are checked out that serve as a student's PRIMARY instrument. Saxophones and clarinets who double on school instruments will not pay this rental fee since they are expected to retain their regular instruments. This usage fee covers routine maintenance, annual cleaning, and emergency maintenance. If there is a problem with the instrument, it should be reported IMMEDIATELY so that it can be repaired in a timely fashion. Please note that mouthpieces and reeds are NOT provided and will need to be purchased separately. Those using school instruments must fill out an Instrument Usage Form.

If finances are a concern, please see Mr. Cooke. No student will be denied an opportunity to participate in the Meigs Band due to finances.

Private Lessons:

All band members are HIGHLY encouraged to take private lessons. The better you are at your instrument, the more enjoyment you get out of playing it, and our organization will be stronger as a result. A list of private instructors is available in the Band Room. There are many coaches in the area that specialize in every instrument, and students can also study privately at the places listed below. It is guaranteed that with private instruction, students will improve above their grade level in class. There is only so much in class that we can teach in a group setting but in private lessons, the individual student is assessed and progressed based on their specific needs.

Grow your Gift Conservatory of Music 105B Lewis St. Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547 (850) 483-0800	Playground Music Center 429 Mary Esther Cut-Off NW, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 (850) 243-2514
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Requirements to Progress:

To ensure that the students the work the hardest and are the most motivated are rewarded, there are specific tasks that students must complete to be eligible to progress to the next band. Once a student is placed into a band, they do not have to re-audition to stay in that band.

Concert Band:

- Complete **Blue Phase** in Band Force
 - Pass-Off Through Line #47 in the Red Book
 - Chromatic Warm-Up #1&2
 - Play Concert Bb Scale 1 Octave Memorized
- Football Band is required

Symphonic Band:

- Complete **Black Phase** in Band Force
 - Pass-Off Through Line #138 in the Red Book
 - Memorized Scales: F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Chromatic in 1½ octaves
- Count all rhythms on page 9.5
- Demonstrate consistent mature behavior during the previous semester
- No failing grades in any class
- Football Band is Required

Band Awards

Star Wildcat Band Award:

This award will be given to 2 band members throughout the entire band program each week for going above and beyond in some way. The director holds full discretion for selecting the winners of this award but some reasons for receiving this award may be: staying late to clean up the band room; taking time out of your day to help a struggling student; doing extra work or practice to advance further on your instrument; etc.

Achievement Medals:

Throughout the school year, students will be able to earn achievement medals that they will receive before each concert through their completion of pass-offs from their Tradition of Excellence books. Students must complete all pass-offs with teacher approval through the number that is listed below

White Medal: Successful completion of line #78 in the red book

Red Medal: Successful completion of the Red Book (line #140)

Blue Medal: Successful completion of the Blue Book (line #155)

Green Medal: Successful completion of the Green Book (line #122)

Scale Master award is given to the first Beginning Band student who performs all of his/her middle school scales in the “All State Pattern” under two minutes with additional octaves!

2021-2022 MMS Band Handbook Agreement

T-Shirt Size: (Please circle one) **AXS AS AM AL AXL AXXL**

PARENT/GUARDIAN: I understand the requirements and responsibilities for membership in the Meigs Middle School Band program. I have read and understand the special policies concerning expectations, grading, attendance, attire, instrument maintenance, AND behavior. I realize that my son/daughter is enrolled in a *performance-based* curriculum for academic credit, and **I agree not to use suspension of his or her participation in rehearsals or performances as a disciplinary tool.** I understand that type of punishment affects the entire band program and is not fair or appropriate.

Parent involvement: Parents are invited to register as volunteers through the Okaloosa County School District. The District Volunteer Application is linked to our band website: <https://meigsmsband.wixsite.com/band>

PARENT/GUARDIAN #1 NAME: (print neatly) _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN #2 NAME: (print neatly) _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

PARENT GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:

X _____

As a band parent, I am interested in helping with (circle all that apply):

Chaperoning on Trips Uniform Fittings Football Game Concessions

Parades (chaperoning/walk with band for security) Donate Concession Items

Concerts (tear-down/instrument transport) Fundraising/Program Ads

STUDENT: I have read and agree to abide by the principles, ideals, procedures, and guidelines set forth in the 2021-2022 Band Handbook and I also understand the consequences for non-compliance.

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT: _____

Please sign and return no later than Monday, August 22nd 2022