

Jackson Middle School Bands



Student Handbook
2017-2018

I. Preface

This Handbook contains the rules and policies that will facilitate the operation of the Jackson 6th, 7th and 8th grade bands in order to maintain high musical standards in our program. These policies will be strictly, but fairly enforced. Students participating in band should adhere to the policies described in this handbook. Please read this handbook carefully and save it for future reference. If any questions or concerns should arise, please contact the band directors for clarification:

Mr. Ryan Hurd
Middle School Band Director
rhurd@jcs.k12.oh.us

Mr. Aaron Rex
Director of Bands
Arex@jcs.k12.oh.us

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Billman
Assistant Director

Band Room Phone Number — (740) 286-7586 Extension: 3516

II. Overview of the Band Program

Participation in the band program is a fun and exciting way to learn about music. The Jackson Middle School Bands will perform a variety of literature that will enhance the musical abilities and knowledge of students. Being a part of the band develops critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, teamwork, responsibility, discipline and enhances all other areas of academic study. Participation in the Middle School Band Program will prepare students for involvement in the high school band program including the Jackson High School Symphonic and Concert Bands, Ironmen Marching Band, Jazz Band and Pep Band. Band is a full-year commitment that requires students remain in band for the school year.



III. Performances

All Items in **bold** are required performances. **Report times will be earlier** than the start of the performance and announced several weeks prior to the performance. Please note which grade levels are involved.

September 18th	Practice with JHS Ironmen Drop off/Pick up at JHS	6:30 PM	8th Only
September 20th	Apple Festival Parade Drop off/Pick up at JMS	10:30 AM	8th Only
September 22nd	8th Grade Night JHS Stadium	7:00 PM	8th Only
October 10th	JMS Fall Band Concert JMS Auditorium	7:00 PM	7th and 8th Only
December 5th	JMS Holiday Band Concert JMS Auditorium	7:00 PM	6th, 7th, 8th
April 7th	Jackson Band Spring Fling JHS Gymnasium	4:00 PM	6th, 7th, 8th
April 12 th	JMS Eisteddfod (<i>Optional</i>) Markay	7:00 PM	Select Students
April 14 th	OMEA MS Solo and Ensemble Ohio University	All Day	Select Students
TBA Late Spring	Tour of Elementary Schools Jackson Elementary Schools	In-School	7th Only
May 8th	HS & 8th Grade Band Concert JMS Auditorium	7:00 PM	8th Only

The culmination of our work in the classroom is the performance. Therefore, all performances are REQUIRED. Every student is a very important part of the performance. The only excused absences for missing a performance are those regarding legitimate personal illness with a doctor's excuse to miss school, family emergencies(such as death in the family, etc.),or any other circumstance that has been approved by the director at least two weeks prior to the performance. Notice of any scheduling conflicts must be submitted in writing no less than two weeks prior to the event. The directors reserve the right to determine whether or not an absence is excused, without exception.

IV. Changing Instruments

After a student's initial instrument selection, they shall play that instrument for the remainder of their studies at Jackson Middle School, with minimal exceptions. All switches to other instruments must be at the consultation of the Band Directors.

Examples of typical instrument switch scenarios include:

- 6th Grade Clarinets will be auditioned for a switch to saxophone, with 4-6 per class switching to saxophone.
- 6th Grade Brass students will be auditioned for a switch to horn and tuba, with 2-3 per class switching to said instruments.
- Students whose physical make up of their body doesn't allow for successful playing of their original choice of instrument.

Spots on each instrument do become available from 6th grade – 12th grade. To fill these spots is at the discretion of the band directors. No student is guaranteed the privilege to switch instruments during auditions, or in the case of an opening. All decisions are made without personal bias and are made with the thought of the student's successful learning in mind.

V. Uniforms

In an effort to present a professional and unified performance, students will be expected to arrive at concerts in appropriate dress as part of their grade for the performance. Students should wear a **white dress shirt, polo or blouse with black pants or long skirt. Black dress socks and black dress shoes** should be worn. Shorts, jeans or gym shoes are not appropriate concert attire. If this presents a problem, please have a parent call the band directors so we can work something out in advance of the concert.

VI. Rehearsal Expectations

As a member of the Jackson Middle School Bands you are expected to:

1. Arrive in class ready to work and learn with a positive attitude and without food, gum or drinks other than water.
2. Have your instrument at all rehearsals and performances in proper working condition.
3. Have your folder, pencil and music at all rehearsals and performances.
4. Arrive in the band room before the tardy bell, get out music and instrument, and warm-up individually before the start of rehearsal.
5. Follow written instructions on the board or given by the teacher when arriving into the band room. All talking and playing should cease when a director steps on the podium.

6. Learn your individual part! We will have greater success as an ensemble if we take it upon ourselves to practice the skills learned in class. This will be evaluated through occasional playing tests.
7. Maintain your instrument: oiling valves, grease slides/corks, swabbing out moisture, etc.
8. Respect other students, directors, equipment, and the facilities
9. DO NOT play instruments other than your personal instrument or school owned instruments assigned to you.
10. Follow all rules as laid out by the Jackson Middle School Bands or Jackson Middle School Student Code of Conduct.

VII. Instruments and Equipment

It is highly recommended that you consult with your band director before buying a new instrument or mouthpiece. Likewise, any used instrument that you plan to buy should also be examined. It is quite possible that you could save a great deal of money, and possibly avoid the purchase of a lesser-quality instrument at too high of a price. Students who play on higher quality instruments are able to do everything much more easily and produce a much more mature sound than students who play lesser quality instruments. Often a good, professional instrument can be purchased for the price of a student model. Again, consultation with the director is crucial.

Equipment and Supplies:

- “Tradition of Excellence” music book (6th Grade All Year, First Half of 7th Grade)
- Two or more Pencils
- *Though not required, a tuner and metronome are very helpful for home practice.

Flutes

- Cleaning rod and small cloth

Clarinets and Saxophones:

- 2 or more working reeds. (Venuto, Vandoren, La Voz or similar brand)
- Reed Guard
- Cork Grease
- Cleaning Swab
- Neck Strap (Saxophones Only)
- Mouthpiece Patch (Highly recommended)

Oboe and Bassoon

- 2 or more working reeds

- Small container for water to soak reeds
(A 35mm film canister or empty pill bottle works well).
- Cleaning Swab

Trumpets, Horns, Trombones, Baritones, Tubas:

- Appropriate Mouthpieces
 - Trumpet - Bach 7C or 5C
 - Trombone/Baritone - 6.5AL
 - Horn - Holton Farkas medium cup
 - Tuba - Bach 25
- Valve oil for trumpets, horns, baritones, and tubas.
 - Trombones- Slide oil/cream (SuperSlick or Trombotine)
- Tuning slide grease
- Cleaning snake and mouthpiece brush

Percussion:

- Percussion Kit including:
 - Bell kit and bell mallets
 - Drum pad and sticks
 - Stand for Bells/Drum pad

VIII. School-Owned Instruments and Equipment

School-owned instruments and equipment are assigned to students who play very expensive instruments such as oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor and baritone saxophone, Horn, Baritone, Tuba, and Percussion. These instruments will be distributed to students according to the needs of the band department and available instruments. Members are responsible for these instruments at all times. Any damage to these instruments or equipment will be the student's burden. Never should a student or parent attempt to repair a school-owned instrument themselves, and these instruments should NEVER be brought to the repair shop without the consent of the director.

IX. Instrument Storage and Repair

On evenings where students are unable to practice, students will be provided a secure locker or storage area to store their instrument at school. (The school is not responsible for instruments left outside of these secure locations.) Instruments should not remain at school for more than three nights at a time and preferably not over the weekends to allow students ample time to practice. ALL students should have identification on the case of their instrument.

All students must have an instrument in good condition to participate in band. If the student's instrument is not in proper playing condition, the student should first present the instrument to Mr. Hurd or Mr. Rex for evaluation. Often, the directors can fix the instrument without having to pay for repairs from the local music store. If the directors determine that professional repairs are necessary, the student must have the instrument repaired in order to continue in the program.

Music and Arts services our school once a week on Wednesdays. Instruments can be sent to Music and Arts via the band director, since Music and Arts is based in Columbus. No instrument should take longer than one week to repair. When possible, students may be allowed to use a temporary instrument from the school until the instrument is repaired. If a temporary instrument is unavailable, students are expected to be in class and will present a short written summary of each class that they are unable to perform the material on an instrument. This will ensure students are still engaged and learning class materials to prevent them from falling behind while their instrument is repaired.

X. Practice and Private Lessons

Practice is the homework for band. Just as you are expected to keep up with your homework in any other subject, we expect you to practice regularly for band. If you do not practice, you cannot expect to do well in band. It is important that you are prepared to perform your music. If you are consistently unprepared, this will be reflected in your grade as a result of poor playing tests. Your playing is important to the performance of the whole band. Although we are rehearsing every day, you are encouraged to take your instrument home 4-5 times per week for individual practice, ESPECIALLY on the weekends! Private lessons are the backbone of any music program. Studies have shown that individual instruction is the most effective way for students to reach his/her full musical potential. All students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons from an instructor who specializes in their specific instrument.

See Mr. Hurd, Mr. Rex or Mrs. Billman if you are interested in locating a local private teacher.

XI. Grading and Assessment Policies

Participation- 30%

Be respectful to your teacher and peers, be a positive participant in class, and come to each rehearsal prepared to receive full credit.

(See above- V. Rehearsal Expectations)

This also includes:

1. Pencil Checks: Unannounced pencil checks may occur. If a student does not have their own pencil to mark music, they will lose participation points for the day.

2. Locker/Instrument Checks: Unannounced Locker/Instrument Checks will occur AT LEAST once per quarter. It is imperative that students take care of personal and school-owned instruments. Parents have invested a great deal of money in student instruments, as well as the Jackson Board of Education and Jackson Band Boosters. To pass a Locker/Instrument Check the instrument must be properly put back in its case with reed/mouthpiece removed and stored safely. Music folders should be placed in assigned slots, not kept in a locker. The issued combination lock should be in place and locked. Books and materials for other classes are not to be kept in instrument lockers. Failure to comply with any of these items will result in loss of participation points for the day.

Performances- 40%

Attend all required performances and follow all rules/expectations at those events in the proper uniform attire. In the rare occasion that a student has an excused absence, this grade must be made up by playing the performance music for Mr. Hurd or Mr. Rex.

Playing Quizzes- 20%

Playing quiz grades will be based on short assignments from the music, method book or scales. If you are practicing at home and paying attention in class this grade will be high!

Written Assignments- 10%

6th Grade-

Practice Charts will be completed by the student and signed by the parent. They will be due every Friday. Late work will be deducted by 10% for each day the practice chart is late, unless the student has an excused absence from school.

7th/8th Grade-

Students will be assigned reflections on their practicing, performance and playing quizzes. These assessments are designed for students to analyze their own playing and how to continuing growing as a musician.

XI. Social Media & Website

The Jackson Band Program utilizes two official social media accounts and a website to share news, media, and discuss upcoming events. The official accounts are as follows:

Website: <http://www.jacksonbands.com>

Facebook: JCS Band Boosters

Twitter: @JacksonBands

No other social media source, Facebook page or website is affiliated with the Jackson Band Program or expresses the views/opinions of the directors, instructors, or administration. Any unofficial webpage or social media account claiming to be a representation of the Jackson Band Program or Marching Ironmen should be reported to a director immediately.

Students are not to post anything on social media that would reflect on the band or any other student or leader of the band in a negative manner. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action or dismissal from the ensemble. **CYBER BULLYING WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE LOSS OF PERFORMANCE PRIVILEGES AND MAY CONSTITUTE DISMISSAL FROM THE ENSEMBLE.**

XII. Official Forms of Communication

The only official forms of communication are by phone (excluding text messaging), e-mail, hand written notes with signature, and in-person. Social media websites and apps such as Facebook and Twitter will not be recognized to excuse students from band events, or address any other academic matters pertaining to band.

XIII. Band Boosters

The Jackson City Schools Band Boosters is an organization of parents and other interested parties. The purpose of the club is to provide financial support and help to promote the band program in grades 6-12. Membership is open to anyone with a sincere interest in the welfare and success of our band. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the high school band room.

XIV. Fun

All students are required to have fun in the Jackson Middle School Band. This is not negotiable!

Handbook Agreement

I have read the entire Jackson Middle School Band handbook and agree to all Jackson Middle School Band policies. I understand that I am responsible for ALL content in the handbook throughout the entire school year.

Signature of Student: _____

Grade: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

PHOTO RELEASE: I give permission for my child's photo to be used on the Jackson Bands website, Jackson Bands Twitter feed, JCS Band Boosters Facebook page, and in local newspaper press releases.

_____ Yes

_____ No

****Please return this signature page to Mr. Rex or Mr. Hurd
before August 18th.****

