

7th Grade Band

2018-2019 Handbook

David Meyers

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<https://www.bcasd.org/Domain/336>

This packet contains information regarding:

- Small Group Lessons
 - Band Rehearsals
 - Grading Policies
 - Important Dates
- Teacher Contact Information
 - Band Contract

Small Group Lessons

Lessons will begin on Wednesday, September 12th and will continue to be held weekly for the remainder of the year. All lessons will occur on a consistent weekly schedule (a student whose lesson is on 9/12 will always have his/her lesson on Wednesday, etc.).

Small group lessons are an outstanding opportunity for students to receive individualized instruction on their instruments, develop musicianship, and go in-depth on topics that may not be covered thoroughly in a large-group setting. Mr. Meyers will teach all 7th grade band students; however, there will be times each quarter that students will study with Dr. Fischer-Croneis or Ms. Lamb, our other TCMS band teachers. This is to provide students with the opportunity to work with a specialist on their instruments as well as receive instruction from different perspectives. NOTE: Even with this change, student lesson schedules will not look any different than in previous years. Students will still receive one lesson per week, always on the same day of the week.

Make-up lessons will be provided *by appointment only* for students who miss their lessons due to exams, illnesses, field trips, and other extenuating circumstances. Students wishing to schedule a make-up lesson should see Mr. Meyers as soon as possible. Make-up lessons will be available and are the responsibility of the student to find Mr. Meyers and set up the make-up time.

Updated lesson schedules will be distributed to all students in band, plus a copy will be posted outside of Mr. Meyers' office. Electronic copies of the lesson schedule can be found on Mr. Meyers' classroom website. If you or your child would like to receive reminders about lessons via text, please sign up for my Remind program:

Remind Codes for Lessons and Band

Send these codes to 81010

BAND 7: @2f747 (If you joined this year you will remain on the list each year your student is in band)

MONDAY Lessons: @90290

TUESDAY Lessons: @8ae46a

WEDNESDAY Lessons: @hf4d7

THURSDAY Lessons: @f9aa23

FRIDAY Lessons: @cb6aca

Band Rehearsals

The 7th Grade Band will rehearse 5th period on odd days (1, 3, and 5) this school year. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for all rehearsals. There will be time to go to lockers AFTER band. The school's expectation is that students come directly from 4th period to band. You will not be bringing your lunch to 5th period.

Each student will need to be responsible for his/her instrument, sheet music, pencil, and any relevant accessory items (reeds, mouthpieces, valve oil, etc.). If a financial burden makes this responsibility difficult for a student, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Meyers.

Grading Policy

Grades will be calculated (weighted) as follows:

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS:

Band Rehearsals (Odd Days) are worth 20% of quarter grade.

Formative assessments will occur every rehearsal through large and small group performances. Points will be awarded based on:

0-3 pts. Ability to Perform Pieces

0-2 pts. Positive Contribution to Section & Ensemble

5 pts. per rehearsal

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS:

Weekly Lessons are worth 50% of quarter grade.

Students will be introduced to new repertoire at every lesson and are expected to set goals and work on the new material in between lessons. At the subsequent lessons, students will be assessed on their performances of the prepared repertoire as follows:

0-2 pts. Tone Quality

0-2 pts. Posture/Hand Position/Technique

0-2 pts. Rhythmic Accuracy

0-2 pts. Pitch Accuracy

0-2 pts. Expression/General Musicianship

10 pts. per lesson (I will be looking and listening for individual progress!)

Playing Exams & Written Exams are worth 20% of quarter grade.

Students will be asked to demonstrate knowledge (through performance and/or written tasks) of music notation, ear training, scales, music theory, and/or relevant music history. Notice in advance will always be given for any exam.

Concert Performances are worth 10% of quarter grade.*

Students will perform all pieces at the concert with rhythmic, tonal, and expressive accuracy. Part checks will occur in lessons 1-2 weeks prior to a concert.

IMPORTANT: Concerts are REQUIRED for all 7th Grade Band students.

Every effort has been taken to minimize conflicts with sports and other activities. It is imperative that all students participate in all concerts, as performing is one of the most important NYS and National Standards for Instrumental Music. The ONLY exceptions that may be allowed for a missed performance are family emergency and/or significant illness. A lack of transportation or a conflict with an extra-curricular activity does not constitute as an “emergency.” A student who misses a concert (within the aforementioned parameters and with notification in advance) will be required to complete a “make-up” project. This project will include music performance as well as written work on relevant music theory and music history concepts.

Please see the attached list of required performances with dates and times. Mark your calendars now! Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Meyers if you have any questions about this policy.

**There is no concert scheduled for the first quarter of the school year. For this quarter only, grades will be weighted 20/60/20 – band/lessons/exams.*

Teacher Contact Information

This handbook and additional information can be found on my classroom website at:

<https://www.bcsd.org/Domain/336>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress in band. I can be reached at:

David_meyers@bcsd.org

242.5100 x4538

We also have school Twitter and Instagram handles: **@TCMSbands**

Dates to Know

Please mark your calendars now!

Date	Time	What	Where	Required?
December 13	7pm (6:30 call time)	7 th Grade Band	TCMS Aud	YES
January 18-19	TBD (students will sign up for preferred time range)	All County Instrumental Solo Festival	TCMS	No – interested students may sign up in October
March 7	7pm (6:30 call time)	7 th Grade band	TCMS Aud	YES
March 15-16	TBD (after school Friday; all day Saturday)	Jr. High All-County Band	Webster CSD	No – students will be selected based on [optional] Solo Festival Performance
May 7	7pm (6:30 call time)	Band Chamber Ensemble Concert This mostly pertains to 7 th and 8 th grade students!	TCMS	Maybe – students performing will have elected to participate in one of the TCMS chamber groups. These groups will be established in lessons. Concert will be required for only these students.
May 20	TBD (students will sign up for preferred time range)	Solo Festival (all grades)	Calkins Road Middle School, Pittsford CSD	No – interested students may sign up in March
June 11	7:45pm (7:00call time)	7 th Grade Band Concert	TCMS Aud	YES

Required performances comprise 10% of a student's grade for the quarter in which the concert is scheduled. Please see the previous page for additional information regarding concert attendance and other grading policies.

A Note on Practicing

Students are expected to practice their instruments at home several times per week. In lessons and band, teachers will be listening for growth – something that is impossible without frequent playing sessions at home. While there is no required amount of practice minutes, on average, students should practice for 20 minutes 4-5 times per week. Many students at this age need reminders/encouragement to practice, so parents, please do not hesitate to speak up!

Students, remember: there is no way to hide it when you haven't practiced!

Teacher Contact Information

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<https://www.bcsd.org/Domain/336>

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Meyers if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress in band:

David_Meyers@bcsd.org
585.242.5100 x4538

Band Twitter and Instagram handles: @TCMSbands

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Band Contract

After reviewing the contents of this packet, please print this page and sign the bottom portion. Signed contracts are due to Mr. Meyers by **Thursday, September 13th**.

We have reviewed and understand the contents of the 7th Grade Band Handbook.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name (Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Best Parent Email Contact: _____

Date: _____