

Twelve Corners Middle School

8th Grade Band Handbook

2018-2019

Welcome Back! I hope everyone has enjoyed some time off this summer and had a chance to unwind. I am really looking forward to our year together, and cannot wait to start working on our new music! This handbook has slight changes from previous years (mainly due to the tablets!) so please take a moment to read it through.

The Twelve Corners Middle School instrumental music program serves to help students achieve both musical and personal growth. Through participation in ensembles and group lessons, students are given the opportunity to further their musical knowledge, strive to reach their musical potential, and gain valuable teamwork and leadership skills. Performing in an ensemble can provide an exciting, creative experience with many rewards. However, being an ensemble member is a big responsibility that requires self-discipline, commitments, and respect for yourself and others.

In this handbook you will find information about ensemble rehearsals, small group lessons, concert dates, and grading procedures. It is important that all participants abide by the rules stated in these guidelines to ensure that everyone involved has a positive experience.

Please sign and return the Parent/Student Contract by **September 17th**. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me using the information below. Thank you in advance for your cooperation throughout what will undoubtedly be a wonderful and productive school year!



Teacher Contact Information:

Ms. Kendra Lamb
kendra_lamb@bcsd.org
(585) 242-5100

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 9/17 will always have his/her lesson on Mondays, etc.). Updated lesson schedules will be distributed to all students electronically, and a copy will be posted outside of Ms. Lamb's office. Additionally, we will be using the Office 365 calendar function to keep track of lesson times and assignments.

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.

MAKE-UP LESSONS

The lesson schedule is designed so that your child will only miss each class once or twice a quarter. However, in the rare instance that your child is unable to come to his/her lesson there will be make-up lessons available. Make-up lessons will be provided *by appointment only* for students who miss their lessons due to exams, illnesses, and other extenuating circumstances. Students wishing to schedule a make-up lesson should see Ms. Lamb as soon as possible.

LESSON MATERIALS

In order to receive **full credit** for a lesson, your child needs to:

- Be on time
- Have a working instrument and supplies (mouthpiece, reeds, oil, etc...)
- Have a music folder (with concert practice packet and scale sheets)
- Have a lesson book
- Have a tablet (we will be using the calendar function for lesson assignments)

Band Rehearsals

The 8th Grade Band will rehearse during 2nd period on odd days (1, 3, and 5) this school year. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for all rehearsals. 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 Ms. Lamb.

Grading Policy

The quarter grade percentages are as follows:

50% Lessons (Summative Assessment)

- **For Each Lesson:**

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 *(We will be looking and listening for individual progress!)*

20% Band Rehearsals (Formative Assessment)

- **For Each Band Rehearsal:**

0-3 pts. Ability to Perform Pieces

0-2 pts. Positive Contribution to Section & Ensemble

5 pts. per rehearsal

10% Playing Exams (Summative Assessment)

- Each quarter will have either a Scale Test or Playing Exam for a grade. The schedule is as follows:
 - Quarter 1= Scale Test
 - Quarter 2= Playing Exam (recorded on tablet)
 - Quarter 3= Scale Test
 - Quarter 4= Playing Exam (recorded on tablet)

20% Concert Performances (Summative Assessment)

IMPORTANT: Concerts are REQUIRED for all 8th Grade Band students. Every effort has been taken to minimize conflicts with sports and other activities. Since band is a graded, performance-based course for which students receive academic credit, it is imperative that all students participate in all concerts. 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 extracurricular 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 relate to the music performed in the concert as well as 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 Ms. Lamb if you have any questions about this policy.

Dates to Know

DATE	TIME	WHAT	WHERE	REQUIRED?
Friday and Saturday, November 2 - 3	TBD (after school Friday; all day Saturday)	NYSSMA Jr. High Area All-State Festival	Wayne Central High School, Ontario, NY	No – students will be selected based on Solo Festival scores from last year
Monday, November 5	7:00pm	TCMS Band Family Night	TCMS	No – attendance is optional
Thursday, December 13	7:45pm (7:15 call time)	8 th Grade Band December Concert	TCMS	YES
Friday and Saturday, January 18 - 19	TBD (students will sign up for preferred time range)	MCSMA Jr. High Instrumental Solo Festival	TCMS	No – interested students may sign up in October
Tuesday, March 5	7:45pm (7:15 call time)	8 th Grade Band March Concert	TCMS	YES
Friday and Saturday, March 15 - 16	TBD (after school Friday; all day Saturday)	MCSMA Jr. High All-County Festival	Webster CSD	No – students will be selected based on [optional] Solo Festival performance
Tuesday, May 7	7:00pm (6:30 call time)	TCMS Small Ensemble Concert	TCMS	No – interested students can participate
Monday, May 20	TBD (students will sign up for preferred time range)	NYSSMA Solo Festival (all grades)	Calkins Road MS, Pittsford CSD	No – interested students may sign up in February
Thursday, June 6	7pm (6:30 call time)	8 th Grade Band June Concert	TCMS (outdoor concert-weather permitting)	YES

Students in Jazz Band will be given a packet outlining performance dates and responsibilities

More Music Dates:

****MCSMA Jazz Solo Festival Audition Date:** Friday and Saturday, January 25 - 26 @Barker Road MS in Pittsford

****MCSMA Jazz Solo Festival Date:** Friday and Saturday, March 1 - 2 @Spencerport HS in Spencerport

****NYSSMA Piano Solo Festival Date:** Friday, June 7 @TBD

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: we can tell when you haven't practiced!

Parent/Student Contract

After reviewing the contents of this packet, please sign the bottom portion and return to Ms. Lamb

We have reviewed and understand the contents of the 8th Grade Band Handbook.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name (Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Best contact information for parent (cell, email, etc.):

Signed contracts are due
Monday, September 17th

