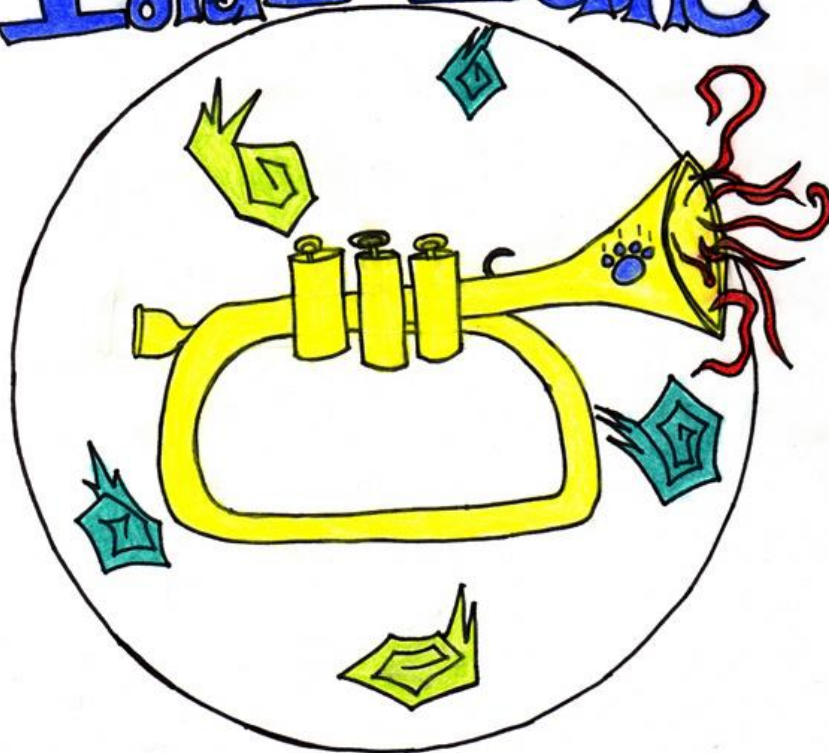


Font-Middle



School Band

Handbook
2009-2010

FORD MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

This handbook is designed to let students and parents know what to expect from the band program as well as what is expected from you. First of all, EXCELLENCE IS AN EXPECTATION.

Philosophy

The goal of the FMS Music Department is to increase knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of music and the arts through study and performance.

Instruments & Equipment

Students must supply their own instruments. Instruments can be rented through any local music store that supplies them, but please realize that all school business is done through the Symphony Music Shop, Rt.6 in North Dartmouth. This is the recommended music store for all your music needs but see the attached list of local music retailers for your convenience. If you are considering buying an instrument, *any instrument*, please consult the band director so that you can make a well-informed purchase and get the most for your money. Research any purchase of an instrument to ensure reliability, durability, and quality. As the saying goes, you get what you pay for. This instrument is an investment in your child and his or her future.

Reeds, valve oil, and other such necessities are available through the school store at a cost to the student. See Mr. Shanbrun to make a purchase.

You are to have your instrument with you at every lesson and for every band rehearsal and lesson, no exceptions. You are also to have any and all music needed, a pencil with an eraser, and anything else you may need for your particular instrument (this includes oil for brass players and reeds for woodwind players – not having a reed is like not having your instrument.) Not having your instrument at a lesson or a rehearsal will result in the lowering of your grade (see **Grading**).

If an instrument is unavailable for a rehearsal or lesson due to a repair being performed upon it, your grade will NOT be affected, providing you have a note signed by an adult. This does not cover you if you have no functioning reeds or broken instruments that are not *currently* in the repair process. A little planning goes a long way!

If you would like to switch instruments, you should make the switch over the summer (private lessons required). Please alert the band director as early as possible so that your schedule for next year is accurate.

The band would not sound balanced if everyone played the same instrument, so please consider the ensemble as a whole along with your current commitment, previous experience, and personal wishes. Switching instruments is not discouraged, but you must understand that switching mid-stream would put you very far behind the other students in your class. Certain switches will almost always be encouraged – switching TO tuba, trombone, trumpet, baritone, or French horn will almost always be strongly encouraged. If you are thinking of quitting, you will be encouraged to try a different instrument first.

Music

Your lesson book “” (which you pay for) is yours to keep. All band music is considered property of FMS and should be treated with care and returned when the band director indicates. Photocopied music should be considered yours to keep, but this does not mean you will get another copy if you lose or destroy yours. Write on your music **ONLY IN PENCIL**.

Lessons

You will have 2 band periods per cycle – 1 small group lesson and one full band rehearsal. Be prepared with your instrument, everything you need (such as reeds, oil, etc.) and your music (see **Grading**).

As soon as you get into class you are to be seated and warming up properly with slow scales and long tones. You must bring your instrument in working condition (reeds, mouthpiece, etc.) to every rehearsal. Brass players must have functioning valves and tuning slides. The teacher will dismiss you a few minutes early to give you time to put away your instrument before you go to your next class. If class is disrupted or delayed by the students and rehearsal goals are not met, the dismissal time will not be early.

You are strongly encouraged to take private lessons. Lessons are available from the Symphony Shop and several other local music stores (see attached list). There is also a list of local private music teachers available in the music office. Should you choose to take private lessons, your grade in band will be raised by five (5) points. Proof must be given before report card time in order to qualify for this (see attached form).

All students, regardless of participation in lessons, should practice outside of school on a regular basis. Home practice should consist of perfecting all of the correct notes and rhythms of your band music and lesson music. Continued study of tone development, rhythm, articulation, and scales and arpeggios is essential for your progress. Scales will be assigned throughout the year and a cumulative scale exam will be given in June so practice everything you have! Students should have an inexpensive, portable metronome (a beat-keeper) to be used during home practice.

Parents: If you don't hear your child practicing, there's a good chance they're not practicing at all. See Appendix 1 for ways to help and encourage your child to play their instrument every single day.

Band rehearsals

The band will meet after school to rehearse as a full ensemble several times over the course of the semester (see attached schedule) in order to prepare for our concerts and the MICCA festival.

Concerts

Instead of a semester exam, band students will showcase what they have learned in a concert. There will be several band concerts this year; the dates are included at the end of this handbook. Attendance is required (see **Grading**).

Concert dress is black pants with white collared shirt for boys and black pants / skirt with white shirt for girls. Girls' skirts must be in accordance with the FMS dress

code (fingertip length). Black shoes (not sneakers or flip-flops) are required. Look good, sound good! Any infraction of the dress code will result in you not performing with the band – this will have the same result on your grade as not coming to a concert at all. Unless otherwise notified, this dress is required for every public performance.

Festivals, Districts, Other

All 7th and 8th grade students are eligible to audition for the Southeast District Band. All students are recommended to try an audition at least once. These events are open to both instrumental and vocal students and are an incredible experience. Junior districts auditions are **December 5, 2009**. Instructions and requirements are posted on the FMS Music webpage along with additional information.

The 7th and 8th grade band participates each year in the MICCA band festival in early April. This festival is an extremely important performance and includes a clinic after the performance. Consider this a mandatory performance and part of your grade.

In addition to sponsoring our annual festival trip, MICCA sponsors a solo and ensemble festival in May. Students interested in performing at this festival should see Mr. Shanbrun as soon as possible to choose literature, form an ensemble, or find an accompanist.

The New Bedford All-City Middle School band is a fun way to meet new people and play more music. It is based at Keith Middle School in New Bedford. Membership is open to all students in grades 6-8. Dates and times of rehearsals will be announced and posted on the website in the fall. You are strongly encouraged to participate. The band performs in local parades and concerts, and usually ends the year with a trip to Six-Flags. Just do it! Consider this: if you can play on more than one sports team, why not play in more than one music ensemble?

Commitment

Students should be committed to this program for the year (see contract at end) but unforeseen problems do arise. Should a student need to cease participation for any reason, a signed note from a parent/guardian will be required to sign the student out of the band class. This note should include a phone number where the parent/guardian can be reached to discuss the reasoning behind this decision.

Middle school is a time where students tend to make rash decisions based on peer pressure, self-identity, and other social factors. In order to ensure the student is making the right decision, the process for dropping band is designed to encourage the student to stay. A deadline for dropping band has been set to maintain as much continuity as possible and provide the best learning environment possible for all students. Any requests to drop band after the deadline will be denied. The student will not be forced to participate, but will stay in the music class and not be put into another class. At that point the student's grade will be based solely on behavior and preparedness for class. The deadline for the note is the third (3rd) time the student is scheduled to have band class.

If a student wishes to drop band, he or she will be required to participate for three (3) more classes after the note is received. These classes will count towards the grade. After those three (3) classes, the student will not be required to participate.

Should a student be asked to leave and/or not participate in the program, a phone call or conference will be arranged.

Grading

10% – band period (behavior, preparation)

15 % - playing quizzes (2 per quarter)

25% – concerts/performances

50% – participation/improvement

The Band rehearsal is a "non-talking" classroom. While not actively engaged in playing you will listen to the conductor's instruction. If instruction is not directed to you, you will silently practice fingerings/stickings of the band music. Talking and disruption will decrease your grade.

Home practice will consist of perfecting all of the correct notes and rhythms of your band music. This includes knowing note names, vocabulary and the like. Continued study of tone development, rhythm, articulation, and scales and arpeggios is essential for your progress. Students are encouraged to have an inexpensive, portable metronome to be used during home practice. Half of your grade is based on your improvement, and that only comes with practice.

Practice does not make perfect,

Practice makes permanent.

PERFECT practice makes perfect!

If you take lessons with someone outside of school, simply have them fill out the slip at the end of this handbook and you will receive 5 points toward your final grade (each quarter). Private lessons are an invaluable experience.

Concert Attendance is MANDATORY. If a concert is missed due to an unavoidable situation you must have a note delivered to the teacher at least two weeks ahead of time unless it is an emergency. In an emergency case a note must be submitted by one week after the concert date. AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE LOWERS YOUR GRADE TO A 75. The BEST grade you could get for that quarter will be a 'C'.

Treat all of the people around with kindness and courtesy and the same will be returned to you. Any infraction of school rules and policies, as set forth in the FMS handbook, will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the instructor and the principal if need be.

Communication

Mr. Shanbrun:

School Office Phone: (508) 998-0265

Music Office Phone: same as above, ext. 301

Please be advised that calls do not go through to classrooms during the day and that your call may not be returned for over 24 hours.

Email: bshanbrun@acushnet.k12.ma.us

This is the desired form of communication and a reply will most likely be sent before the end of the workday.

Web: <http://www.acushnetschools.net/ford> - follow the link to the music page.

CONTRACT

-please detach and return to director with signatures-

I, _____ understand my responsibilities and expectations as described in this handbook. I also understand that by enrolling in FMS band I agree and promise to participate until the last day of school. I promise to try my hardest and never give up.

...and I promise to play every day...or at least as often as possible!

Signed,

_____ (student)

I, _____ understand the responsibilities and expectations for my son/daughter as set forth in this handbook. I furthermore understand that by enrolling in FMS band my son/daughter agrees and promises to participate until the last day of school.

Signed,

_____ (parent) Phone #: _____

Ford Middle School Private Lesson Extra Credit Project

Student _____ Instrument _____

Private instructor (please print) _____ phone _____

I verify that the above student is currently studying music with me. I understand that this is an extra credit project worth an additional five (5) percentage points of the final grade for band and general music.

signature of private instructor

date

APPENDIX I: HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

AT HOME

1. Your interest and praise is what matters most.
2. Arrange a regular time and space for practicing every day.
3. Find a quiet, comfortable place for practice every day.
4. Become familiar with your child's music and lesson book. Take time to listen to your child's practicing.
5. Help your child keep a daily practice record. Space is provided in the lesson book.
6. Provide a safe place to store musical instruments.
7. Help your child to be very careful with school-owned instruments. The costs of repairs are very high.
8. Help keep the instrument in good repair with reeds, valve oil, etc. in the case.
9. Help your child to learn the sectional and band rehearsals schedule. Post it in a convenient place.
10. Encourage your child to play for others when the opportunity arises, in the home, at school, and in the community – summer camps, programs, bands.

AT SCHOOL

1. Post rehearsals and concerts on the family calendar.
2. Notify the teacher if your child is to be absent or tardy to a rehearsal that takes place outside of the school day.
3. Visit rehearsals occasionally.
4. Discuss with your music teacher anything that will help to understand your child.
5. Attend parent/teacher conferences when possible.
6. Help chaperone music events such as concerts, field trips, contests, etc.
7. Encourage participation in other musical ensembles, districts, festivals, etc.

THREE KEYS THAT WILL OPEN THE DOOR TO MUSIC

1. Assist your child in his/her practicing.
2. Be generous with your interest and praise.
3. Credit each achievement with some form of recognition.

Looking for gift ideas for your young musician?

Ask the music instructor for instrument-specific or student-specific recommendations for holiday, birthday, and congratulatory gifts!

APPENDIX II: Private Lesson Teachers

Private lessons are available at a cost to you from the following teachers/studios:

Symphony Music Shop	(508) 996-3301
DeRossi Music	(508) 993-2494
The Music Center	(508) 995-9017
Friend's Music	(508) 675-1889
Top Music	(508) 992-1933

You may also wish to call the UMass Dartmouth Music Department and find a college music major to teach your child. These students are typically very good teachers and sometimes charge less than a professional.

Do not feel pressure to take lessons on your band instrument. Lessons on piano, voice, guitar, bass or any other instrument are beneficial.

APPENDIX III: Resources

Scholarships:

Tri-County Music Association Summer Study Grants

For summer music camps

Jillian Jensen Scholarships

For any music lessons

APPENDIX IV: Recommended Recordings

The best way to know how you should sound playing your instrument is to listen to someone who plays it very well. Listening to recordings of virtuosos will help bring a better understanding of tone, timbre, phrasing, breathing, articulation, and repertoire. PLUS, it's beautiful music!

Flute: James Galway, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Wolfgang Schultz, Aurele Nicolet

Clarinet: Richard Stoltzman, Eddie Daniels, Paul Meyer, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Woody Herman

Alto Saxophone: Charlie Parker, Cannonball Adderly, Eugene Rousseau, Paul Combs

Tenor Saxophone: John Coletrane, Gerry Bergonzi, Stan Getz, Branford Marsalis

Trumpet: Miles Davis, Wynton Marsalis, Maurice Andre, Thomas Stevens, Edward Tarr, Don Smithers, Clark Terry, Clifford Brown

French Horn: Denis Brain, Barry Tuckwell, Hermann Baumann

Trombone: Christian Lindberg, Phil Wilson, Bill Watrous

Tuba: Roger Bobo, Toby Hanks, Sam Pilafian

Percussion: Jazz Drummers – Max Roach, Buddy Rich, Elvin Jones

Vibes – Lionel Hampton

Timpani – Vic Firth (Boston Symph. Orch., Dallas S.O.)

Any DCI recordings or videos of Drum Corps are great!

APPENDIX V: TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

7 th /8 th Band rehearsal	10/7	3 – 4pm
6 th Band Rehearsal	10/12	3 – 4pm
5 th Grade Rehearsal	10/14	3 –
4pm		
Autumn Music Festival	10/15	7pm
7 th /8 th Band rehearsal	12/2	3 – 4pm
6 th Band Rehearsal	12/7	3 – 4pm
5 th Grade Rehearsal	12/9	3 –
4pm		
Winter Concert	12/10	7pm
AES Holiday Performance	12/18	1-3pm
Caroling at AFD	TBA, Sunday	6pm
7 th /8 th Band rehearsal	3/3	3 – 4pm
7 th /8 th Band rehearsal	3/10	3 – 4pm
7 th /8 th Band rehearsal	3/17	3 – 4pm
6 th Band Rehearsal	3/18	3 – 4pm
5 th Grade Rehearsal	3/22	3 –
4pm		
Music In Our Schools Month Concert	3/24	7pm
7 th /8 th Band Rehearsal	3/31	3 – 4pm
MCAS Concert	4/2	1 – 3pm
MICCA Festival weekend	4/2 – 4/4	TBA
Arts Fest	5/6	6:30 – 8pm
Spring Concert	5/20	7pm
Concert at AES	6/?	1 – 3pm
Graduation (night before last day of school)	TBA	5:30 – 7pm

Any time your child is being picked up after school, it will be from the North Entrance or “walker door”, the door nearest the music room.