

# **Frederick Intermediate School**

## **Band Handbook**

2015-2016

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## **BAND DEPARTMENT INTRODUCTION AND GOALS**

Dear Beginning Band Members and Cadet Band Parents,

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year! Becoming a member of the band program is an exciting time for both students and parents. It is definitely something to be proud of. To the continuing beginners - now Cadet Band members - we are excited to have all of you return. And for those of you joining us for the first time, we're excited to welcome you into our program!

The Frederick Band Program is designed to give students the opportunity to learn an instrument in a classroom setting. More importantly, it is a place where students are part of a team that promotes musical, social, and academic growth.

For 5<sup>th</sup> graders, this is a time to explore the world of instrumental music and decide if it's a place they want to call home. We encourage you to try band even if you are involved in choir, sports, or any other activities.

For 6<sup>th</sup> graders, we expect that being in band is a decision they have made and will commit to for the entire year. Our desire for the Cadet Band is to improve and polish on all the hard work and fun we accomplished last year. We will be working from our books to improve our technique, as well as working on new music.

Another goal for this year is to increase parent involvement. This can come in many ways: parental encouragement of daily practice, chaperones for various band events, volunteers for concert set-ups, possible fund-raising for new instruments and other needs. With all of us working together, we know we can give the students a wonderful experience making Frederick's band program an excellent one.

### **Supplies**

Below is a list of supplies. Many of these items can be purchased at the time of instrument rental, but all students must have the required items before the first day of school.

Musical supplies can be purchased at PM Music Center. You can contact them by phone at (630) 978-9927, or through their website at [pmmusiccenter.com](http://pmmusiccenter.com). All supplies are delivered once per week to the band room at Frederick.

**REQUIRED BAND SUPPLIES ON NEXT PAGE**

### All Players:

- Good quality working instruments (*if you are not renting an instrument, you must consult with the director to verify that the instrument you have is adequate*).
- Pencil – every day!
- Music Folder (given out on first day)
- Music Stand for home practice
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - Tradition of Excellence, Book 1
    - By Bruce Pearson & Ryan Nowlin
  - Excellence in Theory, Book 1
    - By Bruce Pearson & Ryan Nowlin
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - Books from year 1 PLUS the following
    - Tradition of Excellence, Book 2
    - Excellence in Theory, Book 2

### Brass Players:

- Slide grease
- Valve oil
- Mouthpiece Brush
- Metronome/Tuner
- Snake Brush (Trombones/Baritones only)
- Valve Casing Brush (Trumpets/Baritones only)

### Woodwind Players:

- 4 working reeds at all times (best to buy a box at a time)
- Reed guard
- Cork grease
- Metronome/Tuner
- Hankie Swab

### Percussion Players:

- Stick Bag
  - With name tag
  - All sticks/mallets labeled with initials (5 pairs)
- 3-ring binder to keep all sheet music and warmups
  - Labeled with name

## CLASS DESCRIPTION

What is the content of a music performance class? Students study and learn individual technique, ensemble (group) skills, discipline, responsibility, and self-expression. These skills teach students to become well-rounded and more mature. The band classes will have some requirements that will need to be met outside of the school day. These events that occur after school or on a Saturday (i.e., concerts or contests) are **required**, and failure to perform at these events may jeopardize the student's membership and/or grade in the program. Assignments, tests, and *almost all* of the requirements for the class grade are completed during class time.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The band program at Frederick consists of two levels of bands. Membership is open to students in grades five and six. The bands are divided by grade level:

### Beginning Band (5<sup>th</sup>):

In Beginning Band, students will attend class every day with other students playing the same instrument. This class will take the place of their encore class (art, music, information literacy). In addition, students will be required to attend full band rehearsal one day per week (either Wednesday or Thursday) from 8:00-8:45 AM

Students will perform in concerts during the year and will learn the basics of playing an instrument, including notes, rhythms, posture, breathing, and basic musical expression.

### Cadet Band (6<sup>th</sup>):

In Cadet Band, students will attend class every day with other students playing the same or similar instrument. This class will take the place of their encore class (art, music, and applied technology). In addition, students will be required to attend full band rehearsal three days per week (Monday, Tuesday, and Friday) from 8:00-8:45 AM

The Cadet Band is a second-year band class that builds upon the skills learned in Beginning Band. Students will perform in concerts during the year, and will learn more advanced musical concepts. The Cadet Band may perform in one or more music festivals throughout the year, in addition to any school concerts.

## **DROP POLICY (PLEASE READ VERY CAREFULLY!!!!)**

All Cadet Band students are committed for the entire 6<sup>th</sup> Grade year.

All Beginning Band students are committed through the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester. Any beginner who wants to drop **MUST** have their parent/guardian notify Mr. Rivera or Mr. Mulder no later than two weeks before the trimester ends. The next drop date is the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester.

Please be advised that notifying the directors does not automatically remove the student from our class roster. We must give you a drop form to be filled out and returned before we can remove your child from our class.

## **CLASSROOM GOALS & RULES**

Unlike some other classes, the success of each member depends on the efforts of others. Once students join the band program, they are expected to adhere to all the standards and expectations outlined in this handbook. All band students must prepare and treat band as they do their other classes. Band students are subject to the same behavioral rules as outlined in the Frederick student handbook.

### Frederick Band Goals

- Play with good tone, pitch, balance and blend
- Play musically (do not make intentionally obnoxious noises)
- Play with good posture, hand position, embouchure, and technique
- Practice daily (during school or at home)

### Frederick Band Rules

- Come prepared with instrument and all supplies (music, reeds, pencil, etc.)
- Show up on time
- Give 100% effort and concentration
- Play only when asked to
- Show respect at all times to others in the group
- Keep the instruments and room clean and neat
- Keep instruments in band lockers during school day
- Be organized
- Work together as a group
- Do not play other students' instruments
- No food, drink or candy (this includes gum) in the band room unless Mr. Rivera/Mr. Mulder has rewarded a student and given them permission to do so

### Frederick Band Consequences

- Verbal or written warning
- Private discussion with student concerning behavior
- Written assignment
- Parent phone call or conference
- Principal conference
- Detention or loss of privilege(s)

### GRADES

Playing tests, assignments, attendance, attitude, and effort will determine the student's grade in band. Students will periodically be given assignments and tests appropriate to their ability. They will be assessed on tone quality, posture, hand position, technical facility, and other fundamentals of music performance such as scales, rhythms (counting), articulations, dynamics and intonation. *All band students will be given a letter grade.*

#### Attendance

Because every member of a performing group is vital to its success, attendance and participation are very important elements in a band. Rehearsals are the only time to put together the different band parts that are worked on in lessons. Cadet band will meet three times for full band rehearsal from 8:00am-8:45am on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday. Students will need to arrange their own transportation to school. We strongly encourage parents to coordinate and form a carpool if transportation might be an impediment.

Lessons are the only times when students receive individual instruction. It is also the only time when students may receive instruction that is specific to their instrument. Lessons meet every day in the band room or in room 210.

Attendance at lessons, rehearsals, concerts and festivals is mandatory. There are times when there are conflicts with personal events outside of school. Any conflict with concert dates or festival performances must be cleared with Mr. Rivera or Mr. Mulder no later than 2 weeks before the event. Any student that does not attend a performance may receive a 0 in the gradebook.

#### Grades for lessons:

Students start each trimester with 100 points in their participation grade. Points are deducted for the following infractions.

- Missing supplies (instrument, book, pencil, etc.)
- Behavior problems
- Not respecting school facilities (poor instrument care, vandalism, littering, etc.)

### Grades for rehearsals:

5 points - Students are expected to arrive on time with their instrument, music, book, and a pencil.

### Assignments

In order for students to be successful on their instrument, daily practice is necessary. This practice, for the most part, will be guided and structured during the school day. However, students will sometimes be required to complete a written or performance assignment at home. These assignments will be checked during lessons. Students will receive a grade based on their ability to perform the specified assignment.

### Playing Tests

In order to assess student growth, students will take periodic playing tests. These tests will be announced in advance with specific guidelines for preparation. All tests will be administered during lessons.

### Performances

All band performances are mandatory. Band performances include concerts, contests, festivals, and trips. Some of these performances may occur on the weekend. All students are expected to attend. In the event of an illness or other emergency, students may be asked to complete an alternate assignment in place of their concert grade. Directors must be notified of any pre-arranged conflict at least two weeks in advance. Student grades on performances are based only on attendance. An unexcused absence may result in 0 points.

### Breakdown Percentage of Trimester Grade:

Concert attendance=25%

Homework=15%

Lesson Participation=35%

Playing Test=15%

Rehearsal attendance=10%

Letter grades are standard A through F

## **BAND FACILITIES**

It is the responsibility of all students to treat the band facilities with respect and care. This includes music that is handed out. In order to keep the room clean and organized, students must keep their instruments in their assigned lockers. In addition, **ALL INSTRUMENTS MUST HAVE A NAME TAG WITH YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY WRITTEN ON IT.** Since many cases look alike, this will ensure that nobody mistakenly takes an instrument that does not belong to them. Students who habitually do not put away their instruments can receive consequences stated in the Classroom Rules and Goals section, as well as a deduction in their Trimester grade.

## **UNIFORMS**

In order for our bands to look as good as they sound, it is important for all students to be dressed in a uniform style for performances. Any student who does not follow the detailed band uniform code may be asked not to play during the performance or suffer one of the other consequences stated in the band handbook. Band uniforms are the responsibility of the student/parent and will be the following:

### **Beginning Band Boys**

- Khaki Pants, Plain White Shirt (No Stripes or graphics), and black or brown casual or dress shoes (No Gym Shoes).

### **Beginning Band Girls**

- Khaki Pants or Khaki skirt (appropriate length), plain white shirt/blouse, and black or brown casual or dress shoes (No Gym Shoes, Flip-flops, or Crocks).

### **Cadet Band Boys**

- Black Pants (No Black Jeans), White Dress Shirt, Black socks, Black Casual or Dress Shoes (No Gym Shoes).

### **Cadet Band Girls**

- Black Pants or skirt (no jeans and skirt appropriate length), White shirt/blouse. Black Casual or Dress Shoes (No Gym Shoes, Flip-flops, or Crocks), or a Black Dress instead of the black pants and blouse. All dresses/skirts must go below the knees when seated. Black shoes still apply.

## **PRIVATE INSTRUCTION**

The importance and impact of private lessons on a student's success cannot be overstated. Individual instruction is the best way to achieve potential, and a weekly one on one lesson with an expert teacher on your child's instrument will reinforce strengths as well as provide instruction for improvement. The most successful band students in any school study with a private teacher, and these students are learning the finer points of playing their instrument. If you are interested in private lessons, please consult Mr. Rivera or Mr. Mulder and we can find an appropriate lesson teacher.

### **Concert dates for 2015-2016**

Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30PM

Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM

Tuesday, May 17 @ 6:30 PM (Outdoor, Ravinia-style concert at Frederick)

**In case of inclement weather, rain date will be Tuesday, May 24th**



**FREDERICK BAND STUDENT CONTRACT**

All Frederick band members and parents please read the following page carefully. Please SIGN, DATE & RETURN this page to Mr. Rivera /Mr. Mulder **today**.

The Frederick band program is dedicated to excellence in performance and the loyalty and citizenship of its members. Its members share a unique musical and social experience.

Membership in the band involves a strong commitment to the program, the director, and especially to the other members. If you have further questions about the handbook, please contact the directors.

I/We have read and understand all of the guidelines and procedures stated in this handbook, with special attention to:

- 1. Grading Policy
- 2. Classroom rules and consequences
- 3. Drop Policy

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (sign) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (sign) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DECLINE BAND FORM**

My child is NOT joining band because of (please check all that apply)

Transportation issues

Does not want to miss encore (please circle)

**Art**

**Information Literacy**

**Music**

Other (please specify):

Parent Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (sign) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT CONTACT INFO**

Please put the following contact information for our band email list. Also, check the appropriate box if you are interested in volunteering for future band events such as concerts, fundraisers, field trips, carpools, etc. Please print clearly.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Yes, I am interested in volunteering for future band events.

\_\_\_ No, I am not interested in volunteering for future band events.

**Thank you for all of your time and participation.**

**Mr. Rivera and Mr. Mulder**