



Jenks Middle School Bands

2015 – 2016

Student Handbook

JENKS MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Jenks Middle School band handbook is to inform band members and their parents of the expectations of the high school band program. The following guidelines are designed to promote the constructive teaching and learning environment needed to develop and maintain a successful program at the highest level of excellence.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The Jenks band department is dedicated to helping students become responsible adults through participation in musical ensembles. The band program is an important part of the total school life. This band represents a large, visible, and highly disciplined segment of the school groups. Being a member of the Jenks Middle School band requires commitment, responsibility, and organization. Members are given the opportunity to develop self-esteem, poise, and confidence in addition to strengthening their musical abilities. The band staff considers these personal traits vital to the success in adult occupations and professions. It is our goal to give every student the finest musical experiences available.

GENERAL RULES

No gum, candy, food, or drink is allowed in the band room.

No talking when the director is in front of the class.

If you are not early, you are late.

When in doubt, don't.

If it is not yours, leave it alone.

Leave the room in a neat and orderly condition. Return items to their proper place. Be responsible with school and personal equipment.

Respect our band, our goals, and our members.

We are and always will be a first class organization.

Always do your best.

Always be prepared musically and mentally. Anything can happen.

No guts, no glory. No effort, no glory.

DAILY CLASSROOM MATERIALS

Instrument, sheet music, pencil, 1 inch binder, 25 page protectors, agenda,

Essential Elements Book 1 (7th grade),

Essential Technique Book 3 (8th grade),

Foundations for Superior Performance in Band (8th grade),

PERFORMANCE AND PARTICIPATION

REQUIREMENTS

All band students are expected to participate in rehearsals, concerts, and any other school function in which the band takes part throughout the school year.

Missing a performance will be reflected in the student's grade.

Personal illness, family death, unsafe road conditions, or conflicts with other school-sponsored activities may be considered excused absences from rehearsals and performances.

Parents and students should notify the band director well in advance of any possible scheduling conflict.

A director may exclude a student from a performance for inappropriate dress, excessive absences, or lack of individual preparation.

Once a student has chosen band as an elective, the expectation is for the student to remain in band for the duration of the school year.

Rehearsals outside of the normal school day may need to be scheduled in preparation for concerts and contests. These rehearsals will be announced well in advance.

ELIGIBILITY

The standards mandated by the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association and those of Jenks Independent School District will be used to determine a student's eligibility for performances. Students must maintain a passing grade of at least a 60% or above in all classes (not just band). Students with a grade lower than a 60% are considered ineligible and will not be able to participate in contests or trips. This will include the Middle School Pre-District Concert.

GRADING

Grades in band reflect the student's performance in all aspects of being a responsible member of an organization. Every band member will be held accountable for his/her attendance, materials, and preparation.

School policies for tardies and absences will be observed. Excessive tardies and/or absences may affect a student's eligibility and participation in band.

Tests will be given at the discretion of the director. Students are held accountable for any material covered in a previous lesson. Tests and tryouts for chair placement will usually be announced in advance. Students who miss a chair test will go to the last chair of their section, but will have the opportunity to make up the grade.

Performances are required and are graded as multiple tests. An unexcused absence from a performance will lower a student's grade.

Band members are expected to take their instruments home and practice each evening.

Occasionally, material and maintenance grades will be taken to ensure that students have all of their required items for the band class, and that they are caring for the instruments properly.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS AND FEES

Some school-owned instruments and equipment will be checked out to students during the year. A \$25.00 fee will be required per semester from students using school-owned instruments/equipment and is due the first month of each semester. This fee will be used for the normal upkeep and repair of the instruments. The middle school band department will assume financial responsibility for normal maintenance and repair of school-owned instruments and equipment. Students are expected to properly care for and maintain school instruments while it is their possession. Any damage, loss, or neglect of an instrument that is not considered normal will be the responsibility of the student and their parents.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION/ COMMUNICATION

www.jenksband.com

The band web page is an outstanding source of information for students and parents. Students will be held responsible for dates and information posted on the web site. The web page also provides an additional avenue of communication for parents and directors.

Occasionally, the middle school directors will send an email blast as a reminder to all parents. **Please sign up for these emails at the bottom-left portion of the band website www.jenksband.com.** Be sure to indicate that you are a middle school parent.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

The uniform worn by the seventh and eighth grade bands are a visible symbol of our groups as legitimate school organizations. When in uniform, each student is a representative of the band program, our school district and our community. Therefore, the uniform should be worn and kept in a respectful manner. No contest medals, buttons or pins are worn on the uniform and jewelry should be conservative in nature. The designated concert uniform for the seventh and eighth grade bands are as follows:

MALE

White, long-sleeved, collared dress shirt
Black dress slacks (no jeans)
Black socks
Black dress shoes (no tennis shoes)

FEMALE

White, long-sleeved, collared dress shirt
Black dress slacks (no jeans)
Black dress socks or hose
Black dress shoes (no tennis shoes) Heels may be worn, but not required.

The uniform will be worn at the Holiday Concert, the Pre-Contest Concert, and OSSAA District Contest.

At the Spring Concert, students are required to dress in semi-formal attire. Girls may wear dresses, skirts and blouses, or nice slacks and blouses. Any dress or skirt must fall below the knees to maintain modesty on the stage. Boys may wear a nice shirt, slacks, and nice shoes. T-shirts and jeans are prohibited. Any student may choose to wear the

regular concert uniform if they choose to do so.

All band students will be required to purchase a band t-shirt. This shirt will be worn with jeans, socks, and tennis shoes both at the Homecoming Day Parade, the Veterans Day Assembly (8th grade only), and the spring festival trips.

Students who disregard any of the performance attire **may not be allowed to participate** in the concert.

HONOR BAND AUDITIONS

Band members are strongly encouraged to audition for membership in honor bands. Membership in the North Central Director's Association Honor Band is a great honor and holds much significance for university officials when distributing scholarship offers. Preparation for these auditions requires a great deal of initiative and self-discipline, as most of the practice is done out of class. Students auditioning for N.C.D.A. are strongly encouraged to include sight-reading as part of their preparation for the audition. Sight-reading is a major portion of the audition process and has a direct impact on whether a student makes the honor band and how high they place.

SOLOS & ENSEMBLES

Another opportunity for musical growth is through participation in solo and ensemble contests. It is another opportunity for exposure to challenging music of various styles on an individual basis or through a smaller group. Students will have the opportunity to compete the District level contest. As with honor bands, a great deal of initiative and preparation is done outside of class. Regular rehearsals with accompanists or ensembles will be scheduled in the spring.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Students are also **highly encouraged** to study privately on their instrument. This gives the student the opportunity to study with a person who specializes on their particular instrument. A list of teachers and contact information is available on the website.

TRIPS & FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Parents and students should be thoroughly familiar with the Jenks Trojan Pride Trip Fund Policy that is included in this handbook. All students are expected to attend, participate, and be financially solvent for band trips designed for their performing group. **Trips are not optional;** they are considered part of the curriculum as they provide both performance and educational opportunities. Advanced and careful planning is necessary for trips of this nature to be successful and financially stable. We are relying on students to manage their academic studies in such a manner so that eligibility issues will not be a concern. Ineligibility does not preclude the financial responsibilities of the student and his/her parents. Payments/Fees will take place in advance of these trips. Students who become ineligible, even after submitting their payment for the trip, will not be allowed to attend and will not be refunded their trip payment.

Fundraising is not required, but highly encouraged. Individual fundraising activities are designed to offset the cost and out of pocket expenses for the student and their families for these trips. Additional information concerning student trip finances will be available several months prior to the trip.

BEHAVIOR ON TRIPS

At the Middle School level, students will begin to take out-of-town and possibly out-of-state trips for various concerts, contests, or festivals. The following is the proper etiquette expected on these trips:

We are and always will be a first class organization. When you are with our band you are representing our school, our community, and our state. Every band member should be conscious of their behavior and the impressions that it makes. Your words and actions will be heard, seen, and interpreted by many people. Do not draw undue attention to yourself. Represent this program in the manner that it should be represented. Take pride in what you do and how you do it.

Bus drivers, directors, and chaperones have disciplinary authority while students are riding the buses. School policies will be observed at all times.

No student will exit a bus before the entire bus is determined to be clean by the chaperones on board. The responsibility of cleaning the bus is yours not anyone else's.

CONTACT US

Because the band directors teach at four different school sites within the school day, the best source of communication is email.

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|----------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Julie Arnold | julie.arnold@jenksps.org | 8 th Grade Director |
| Kale White | kale.white@jenksps.org | 8 th Grade Percussion |
| Daymon Sherin | daymon.sherin@jenksps.org | 7 th Grade Director |
| Mark Stevenson | mark.stevenson@jenksps.org | 7 th Grade Percussion |

MIDDLE SCHOOL CALENDAR 2015-2016

*Please continue to check the calendar link on our website,
www.jenksband.com as dates may be subject to change.*

- September 10 Middle School Band Fundraiser Kick-off
- October 2 Homecoming Parade
- October 2 8th Grade Night at High School Football Game
- November 7 NCDA Honor Band tryout at Owasso High School*
- November 11 Veterans Day Assembly (8th grade only)
- December 7 Middle School Holiday Concert at JHS Performing Arts Center
- January 8-9 NCDA Honor Band Concert and Clinic - Stillwater*
- February 20 Middle School Solo & Ensemble at Jenks Middle School*
- March 8 Pre-District Concert at JHS Performing Arts Center
- March 10 OSSAA District Concert Contest at Owasso High School
- May 7 8th Grade band trip to Branson
- May 14 7th Grade Frontier City Trip / Contest (OKC)
- May 17 Spring Concerts at Jenks High School Performing Arts Center

Events in *italics* are optional and not required.