



**Welcome to**  
**Jenks Band**

**2023-2024 Handbook**

# A welcome letter from the directors

# Jenks Band

Welcome to the JMS band family and the new school year! The band directors are very excited about this coming year and the many great experiences that we will enjoy together.

Since this is a time of transition into a new school, it can take a while to get to know everyone. Please do not hesitate to talk to the directors and tell us about you. We love to hear about interesting things you did this summer, cool hobbies or skills, or whatever else makes you, you!

Participation in the band program at Jenks Middle School is truly a great experience. The many positive facets of the program and experiences are too numerous to mention. These years of participation hold many treasures in store, and I am very excited to welcome you to our band family.

Julie Cryer  
7th & 8th Grade  
julie.cryer@jenksps.org

Jill Johnson  
7th Grade  
jill.johnson@jenksps.org

Sam Silverman  
7th Grade  
sam.silverman@jenksps.org

Mark Stevenson  
7th & 8th Grade Percussion  
mark.stevenson@jenksps.org

# Purpose

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The purpose of the Jenks Middle School band handbook is to inform band members and their parents of the expectations of the 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

## 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

1. No gum, candy, food, or drink is allowed in the band room.
2. No talking when the director is in front of the class.
3. If you're not early, you're late.
4. When in doubt, don't.
5. If it is not yours, leave it alone.
6. Leave the room in a neat and orderly condition. Return items to their proper place. Be responsible with school-owned and personal equipment.
7. Respect our band, our goals, and our members.
8. We are and always will be a first class organization.
9. Always do your best.
10. Always be prepared musically and mentally. Anything can happen.
11. No guts, no glory. No effort, no glory.

# Communication

## 1. Website

The band website is an outstanding source of information for students and parents. Students will be held responsible for dates and information posted on the website. Please refer to the band website before asking a director for information.

## 2. Canvas

The middle school band directors will send an email blast through Canvas as a reminder to all parents. Please sign up to as an observer through you child's Canvas account. You can also message the directors through your Canvas observer account.

## 3. Email

Since the band directors are at different sites within the school district throughout the day, email is the best way to contact us. Please see below for their individual email addresses:

Julie Cryer  
7th & 8th Grade Band Director  
julie.cryer@jenksp.org

Sam Silverman  
7th Grade Band Director  
sam.silverman@jenksp.org

Jill Johnson  
7th Grade Band Director  
jill.johnson@jenksp.org

Mark Stevenson  
7th & 8th Grade Percussion Director  
mark.stevenson@jenksp.org

# 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.

## Eligibility Example

Student is failing one class

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Probation period begins	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Ineligible period begins if all classes are not in passing range	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
If all classes are in passing range, the student becomes eligible again. If not, the student will remain ineligible.	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

During the probation period, students are considered eligible. If students are not passing all classes at the end of the probation period, they are considered ineligible.

# Concerts

**12/5 Holiday  
Concert**

**3/12  
Preview  
Concert**

**3/14  
OSSAA District  
Contest**

**5/7  
Spring  
Concert**

**Please see the  
schedule page for a  
more complete list of  
band activities.**

## Performance & Participation

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 if proper communication has been fulfilled. 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.

**Please visit [jenksband.com](http://jenksband.com) for the most up to date calendar and for each event's schedule.**



# 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 their 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. Tests will be given through Canvas video submissions or in class. Students are held accountable for any material covered in a previous lesson. Tests and tryouts for chair placement will 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 significantly.

Band members are expected to take their instruments home and practice each evening. Occasionally, material and maintenance grades will be taken to ensure students have all of their required items for rehearsals, and that they are caring for their instruments properly.

## Did you know...?

**-Music helps develop skills needed in today's workforce: critical thinking, creative problem solving, effective communication, teamwork, and confidence.**

**-Middle school and high school students who participated in instrumental music performances scored significantly higher than their non-band peers in standardized tests.**

**-The College Entrance Examination Board found that students in music (middle and high school) scored 63 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math than students with no arts participation.**

**-More than half of U.S. households (52%) have at least one person, age 5 or older, who currently plays a musical instrument**

# School Owned Instruments & Fees

Some school-owned instruments and equipment will be checked out to students during the year for those that play a color instrument (Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, French Horn, Baritone, Tuba). 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.

# 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 band website.

## Did you know...?



**70%**

OF ADMISSIONS OFFICERS OF THE NATION'S MAJOR UNIVERSITIES SAY HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT AND ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ARTS ARE SIGNIFICANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR ADMISSION.



**107**

POINTS SCORED HIGHER ON THE SAT FOR STUDENTS INVOLVED IN PUBLIC SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAMS ACCORDING TO THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION BOARD.



**66%**

LEWIS THOMAS, PHYSICIAN AND BIOLOGIST, FOUND THAT MUSIC MAJORS COMPRISE THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF ACCEPTED MEDICAL STUDENTS.

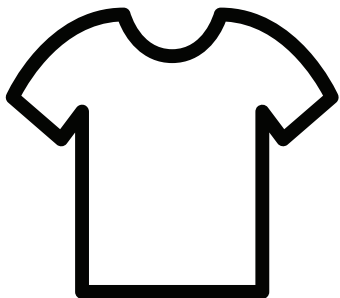


**94%**

OF RESPONDENTS (GALLUP POLL), BELIEVE MUSIC IS PART OF A WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION AND SHOULD BE OFFERED AS PART OF THE REGULAR CURRICULUM IN SCHOOLS.

# Performance Attire

## Informal Uniform



Band students will be required to purchase a band t-shirt. This shirt will be worn with jeans, socks, and tennis shoes at the Homecoming Parade and the Spring Festival trips.

## Semi-formal Uniform



### Girls

- Black, long-sleeved, collared dress shirt
- Black dress pants (no jeans)
- Black dress shoes (no tennis shoes)

### Boys

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

Students who disregard any of the performance attire may not be allowed to participate in the concert and will have their performance grade lowered.

# Important Dates

Please continue to check the calendar link on our website, [jenksband.com](http://jenksband.com) as dates may be subject to change.

*November 4, 2023*      *NCDA honor band auditions at Owasso High School*

**December 5, 2023**      **Concert at JHS Performing Arts Center**

*January 5-6, 2024*      *NCDA Honor Band Concert and Clinic - Stillwater HS*

*February 17, 2024*      *Middle School Solo & Ensemble at JMS*

**March 12, 2024**      **Concert at JHS Performing Arts Center**

**March 14, 2024**      **OSSAA District Contest- Owasso HS**

**May 7, 2024**      **Concert at JHS Performing Arts Center**

**May 11, 2024**      **Frontier City trip**

*Events in italics are optional and not required.*

## **Honor Band Important Dates**

**NCDA Honor Band Audition  
November 5, 2023  
Owasso High School**

**NCDA Honor Band Concert  
& Clinic  
January 5-6, 2024  
Stillwater High School**

**Middle School Solo &  
Ensemble  
February 17, 2024  
Jenks Middle School**

# **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 NCDA 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.

## **Solo and Ensemble**

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.

# Behavior on Trips

At the Middle School level, students will begin to take out-of-town and possibly out-ofstate 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.

## Trips & Financial Obligations

Parents and students should be thoroughly familiar with the Jenks Trojan Pride Trip Fund Policy on our website. 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.