



Jenks Eighth Grade Bands

2024-2025

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
- All Students: *Traditions of Excellence Book 3 (and Book 2 from last year)*
- Brass and Woodwinds only: *Habits for a Successful Musician (5th hour) or Habits for a Successful Middle School Band (6th hour)*
- Percussion only: *The Packet*

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, Mrs. Cryer will send emails on Canvas. Please sign-up as a Parent Observer. We will also be using the “TalkingPoints” app when communicating with small groups of students or on trips.

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% for two consecutive weeks in any class are considered ineligible and will not be able to participate in contests or trips. This will include the 8th Grade OSSAA District Competition and the Branson trip.

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. Tests will be given both through Canvas submissions (generally video) or in class. 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.

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.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

All band students will be required to purchase a band t-shirt. (For returning band students, this shirt was purchased last year and given out before the Frontier City trip.) This shirt will be worn with jeans, socks, and tennis shoes at the Homecoming Parade, the Veterans Day Assembly, and the Spring Festival trips.

The designated concert uniform for the Eighth Grade Band to be worn at the Holiday Concert, the Pre-Contest Concert, OSSAA District Contest, and Spring Concert is as follows:

- Black, long-sleeved, collared dress shirt
- Black dress slacks (no jeans/leggings)
- Black dress shoes (no tennis shoes)
- If masculine dress shoes are worn, then long solid black socks are required. If feminine dress shoes are worn, students are not required to wear socks.

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

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.

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.

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. We have seen a significant difference between students who study privately with a teacher and those that don't. A list of teachers and contact information is available on the website.

MUSIC & MILKSHAKES

Music and Milkshakes is a time afterschool when students may receive help with music, and then we walk to Braum's. *This help should NOT replace private lessons.* It will take place on Mondays at 4 PM. We will usually work on music for 45 minutes and then walk to Braum's. Parents will pick up their children from Braum's at 5:30 PM. There will be some M&Ms where only specific students are allowed to attend (those auditioning for NCDA or those auditioning for solo/ensemble). There will be others where any eighth grade band student may attend. Please check the calendar for the schedule.

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL HELP

Mrs. Cryer will be offering before and after school help to 8th grade woodwind students during the school year to prepare for NCDA and Solo/Ensemble. *This help should NOT replace private lessons.* Mr. Silverman and Mr. Stevenson will be offering help to brass and percussion students during class time. Before school help runs from 8:10-8:55. After school help runs from 4:05-4:50.

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— it is not the responsibility of anyone else.

CONTACT US

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Mark Stevenson

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8th Grade Director
7th Grade Director
8th Grade Percussion

EIGHTH GRADE BAND CALENDAR 2024-2025

Please continue to check the calendar link on our website, www.jenksband.com as dates may be subject to change. Changes will also be emailed out through Canvas.

September 6	<i>Jenks Hometown Huddle (only a few students participate)</i>
September 20	Middle School Band Fundraiser Kick-off
October 4	Homecoming Parade
October 4	8th Grade Night at Jenks High School Football Game
November 9	<i>NCDA Honor Band tryout at Owasso High School</i>
November 11	Veterans Day Assembly Performance
December 10	Middle School Holiday Concert at JHS Performing Arts Center
January 10-11	<i>NCDA Honor Band Concert and Clinic – Stillwater</i>
February 6	HS Band informational meeting
February 8*	<i>Solo & Ensemble Fundraiser for NightLight Tulsa</i>
February 15	<i>Middle School Solo & Ensemble at Jenks Middle School</i>
March 6	8 th Grade OSSAA District Concert Contest Bartlesville HS
March 11	Encore Concert at JHS Performing Arts Center
March 27	<i>Jenks 8th Grade Band Night at NightLight Tulsa</i>
May 3	8 th Grade band trip to Branson
May 6	Spring Concert at JHS Performing Arts Center
May 10	HS Band Registration

Events in *italics* are optional and not required.

**This date is unconfirmed. We will keep in communication with any changes as soon as possible.*

Music and Milkshakes Dates (4-5:30 PM. Pick up at Braums)

Any 8th grade band student may attend: Aug. 26, Dec. 9, Apr. 14

NCDA-auditioning students may attend: Sept. 9, Sept. 23, Sept. 30, Oct. 14, Oct. 28, Nov. 4

Solo/Ensemble participants may attend: Jan. 13, Jan. 20, Jan. 27, Feb. 3, Feb. 10

Woodwind Before/After School NCDA Help (Runs from Aug. 26-Nov. 8)

Oboe- Mondays 8:10-8:55 AM

Saxophone- Thursdays 8:10-8:55 AM

Flute- Tuesdays 8:10-8:55 AM

Bassoon- Fridays 8:10-8:55 AM

Clarinet- Wednesdays 8:10-8:55 AM

Bass Clarinet- Tuesdays 4:05-4:50 PM

NOTE: If Mrs. Cryer cannot meet during any of these times, a make-up will be scheduled sometime between Wednesday through Friday after school.