

GRASS LAKE

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

BAND HANDBOOK 2015-2016



Welcome to the Grass Lake band program! The mission of the band program is to open students' eyes to music through the learning of musical instruments. Students will work together to study and perform music. Being in band is a team activity and requires the participation of every student in the band. The purpose of this handbook is to help clarify expectations of students in the Grass Lake band program.

Band Director: Mrs. Rachel Wilson

Contents:

- Grading Policy
- Practice Card Details (MS only)
- End-of-year Awards Policy (HS only)
- Uniform Descriptions
- Full Schedule of Performances and Events

If you have any questions at any time, please don't hesitate to email or call. My email is: rachel.wilson@grasslakeschools.com. My voicemail is 517-522-5622.

Grading Policy for Middle School:

Participation: 5 Points per day

- 3 Points for bringing your instrument, music, and a pencil (no pens) to class
- 2 points for actively participating in class and following directions

Playing Tests and Written Work: Tests are typically 20 points each; written work will vary

- Students will receive a written rubric with each playing test
- Tests will be assigned at least two days in advance
- Playing tests might be held in class, privately, or recorded

Performances: Concerts and other performances are worth at least 200 points each

- A student may make up a performance grade ONLY if the performance is excused by the parent with a note, phone call, or email. Valid excuses include: illness, funeral, or other family emergency. The makeup assignment will consist of a written paper or other similar assignment. Remember, band is like a team and needs all the team members present to function. Please see the calendar at the back of this packet for all performance dates.
- Arriving late or not having the proper uniform will reduce the grade by 20%. Not having the proper uniform may prevent you from performing at all.

Practice Cards: 20 points each, due every Monday

- Practice cards are essentially the “homework” for band class
- Practice cards need to be signed by parents before being turned in
- Requirements: 60 minutes per week
- Every extra 5 minutes you practice is worth 1 point of extra credit, up to 5 extra points per card
- Late practice cards will be reduced by 5 points per day
- After school band can count towards your card.
- Practice cards are available in the Middle School band room or online

After School Band: After school band will continue to be on Thursdays after school from 3:00-4:00 pm. After school band is an open practice time and is a great way to take care of your practice card for the week. It is also a great time to get extra help from Mrs. Wilson or your classmates. There is always after school band unless Mrs. Wilson is absent that day or has made an announcement earlier in the week about cancelling it.

Classroom Rules:

- Respect other students, the instruments, and the band room.
- The band room is a “Nice Words Only” zone; if you have something mean to say, keep it to yourself.
- Gum is not allowed in the band room. It is a choking hazard. Spit it out as soon as you enter the room to avoid a warning or more severe consequences
- Keep the room and your personal materials clean and organized
- Cell phones, iPods, etc.: If I see them, they will be confiscated. Leave them in your locker to avoid confiscation. Please refer to the student handbook for the consequences of confiscation.

Grading Policy for High School (Marching, Concert, and Jazz Band)

Participation: 10 points per day

- 3 Points for bringing your instrument, music, and a pencil (no pens) to class
- 2 Points for actively participating in class and following directions
- 5 Points for having your music practiced and prepared for class

Playing Tests and Written Work: Tests are 50 points each; written work will vary

- Students will receive a written rubric with each playing test
- Tests will be assigned at least two days in advance
- Playing tests may be held in class, privately, or recorded

Performances: Concerts and other performances are worth at least 200 points each

- All outside of class performances are graded including football games, band camp, etc.
- A student may make up a performance grade ONLY if the performance is excused by the parent with a note, phone call, or email. Valid excuses include: illness, funeral, or other family emergency. The makeup assignment will consist of a written paper or other similar assignment. Remember, band is like a team and needs all the team members present to function. Please see the calendar at the back of this packet for all performance dates.
- Work, not having a ride, I didn't tell my parents, etc., are not valid excuses.
- Parents: if you know about a performance absence ahead of time, please let me know as soon as possible. Knowing ahead of time makes a big difference in lesson planning and picking music for the students.
- Arriving late or not having the proper uniform will reduce the grade by 20% each. Not having the proper uniform may prevent you from performing at all.

Forum: Ask Mrs. Wilson for a forum pass if you are interested in getting extra practice time or extra help during forum.

Classroom Rules:

- Respect other students, the instruments, and the band room
- Gum is not allowed in the band room. It is a choking hazard. Spit it out as soon as you enter the room to avoid a warning or more severe consequences
- Keep the room and your personal materials clean and organized
- Cell phones, iPods, etc.: If I see them, they will be confiscated. Leave them in your locker to avoid confiscation. Please refer to the student handbook for the consequences of confiscation

End-of-Year Awards Policy (High School Only)

For all the hard work the students put into the band program, they deserve to be recognized. The following awards are available at the end of the year:

End of first full year in band/jazz band: Participation certificate

End of second year: GL letter for varsity jacket

End of third year: Numerals for varsity jacket

End of fourth year: 4-year plaque

Just signing up for band does not guarantee you will be recognized with one of these awards. You must also do the following:

- Attend band camp and all other scheduled performances
- Attend any extra rehearsals and other outside-of-school required activities
- Pay off any debts to the music boosters at the end of the year (for example if you still owe for band camp, shoes, or reeds at the end of the year)
- Turn in your complete uniform at the end of the year

Unexcused absences will prevent you from receiving an award. Please see the grading policy for attendance expectations.

Class Web site: Check out my classroom web pages! Go to www.grasslakeschools.com and click on buildings. Then, select High School or Middle School, and click on staff. Click on Mrs. Wilson to access my classroom pages with announcements, calendars, the class syllabus, and more! We also have a facebook page. On your facebook home page, type Grass Lake Bands into the search box and it should be the first thing that comes up.

Fundraiser Accounts

The band and choir do at least two fundraisers per year. If your student participates in the fundraiser, a percentage of the sales go into their "personal account" and can be used for music-related things, such as books, reeds, Solo & Ensemble, field trips, and instrument repairs.

Your personal account is kept until you graduate or quit. If you have money remaining after graduation, you may donate it to a younger sibling. If you quit band, you do not get your money back and it cannot be transferred to anyone else.

Uniform Policy for all grades

Remember – you represent your community, your school, and yourself every time you perform. Look your best!

6th Grade Band Uniform:

6th Grade band does not have a specific uniform. You are only asked to wear something “nice,” like you might wear to church, not what you’d wear to play outside. Blue jeans and tennis shoes are not allowed. Good examples of what to wear would be: khaki pants, polo shirts, button-down shirts, skirts, blouses, etc. Dress to impress!

7th/8th Grade Band Uniform:

The 7/8 uniform consists of the collared white “Grass Lake Warriors” polo shirt that will be ordered shortly after the start of the school year. Along with this, the students wear black dress pants or a skirt. Skirts should fall below the knee when standing since when you are sitting, the skirt looks a lot shorter. Black dress shoes and socks are required.

High School Marching Uniform:

The full marching uniform consists of: bibbers, jacket, cape, white gloves, black marching shoes (ordered through the school), black socks, and the hat or beret issued to you. Incomplete or wrinkled uniforms will not be allowed at performances. No excessive makeup. Earrings and piercings should be smaller than ¼ inch in diameter. No chains, bracelets, or watches. No gum or sunglasses. The uniforms will be stored at school and handed out before performances and collected after. If it rains and your uniform gets wet, hang it up where it can air dry. If you spill something on your uniform or get it dirty, you are responsible for getting it dry cleaned.

High School Concert Band Uniform:

For formal band concert performances, students are issued black pants or a skirt, a blue shirt, and for men a tie and a vest. These are machine washable. Black shoes and socks are also required. Incomplete or wrinkled uniforms will not be allowed at performances. The uniform is to be stored at home. No parts of your uniform should be left at the school at any time. Always hang your uniform on hangers.

Other Policies

Please refer to the student handbooks on www.grasslakeschools.com for information about attendance, tardiness, cell phones, and other policies.

Grass Lake Band Calendar 2015-2016

This is the most up-to-date calendar. Updated calendars will be posted on the school website as they become available.

Thursday, September 3	Home Football v. Napoleon (Marching Band) <i>Rehearsal starts at 4:30 and there is a tailgate before the game</i>
Wednesday September 23	Chelsea Marching Band Exhibition (Marching Band) <i>Time TBA (evening)</i>
Friday, September 25	Home Football v. Vandercook Lake (Marching Band) <i>This is also Relay for Life and Senior Night</i>
Monday, September 28	Vandercook Lake Marching Invitational (Marching Band) <i>Time TBA (evening)</i>
Friday, October 16	Homecoming Parade (Marching Band) <i>Report to MS by 5:00 p.m., parade begins at 5:30 p.m. Required for all HS band students. Football game is immediately after.</i>
Friday, October 16	Home Football v. Michigan Center – Homecoming Game (Marching Band)
Th. or Fri. Oct. 22 or 23	Possible Home Football Game for Big 8 Crossover Game
Saturday, October 24	Jazz Performance at Festival of Tables (HS Jazz Band), time TBA (evening)
Wednesday, December 2	HS Band Solo and Ensemble sign-up deadline (optional event for HS)
Thursday, December 10	High School Winter Concert, 7:00 (HS Bands and Choirs)
Thursday, December 17	Middle School Winter Concert, 7:30 (MS Bands and Choirs)
Monday, January 11	Jackson County HS Honors Band Application Deadline (optional for HS band)
Saturday, February 6	HS Band Solo and Ensemble Festival, Onsted HS (optional for HS band)
Tuesday, January 26	MS Band Solo & Ensemble sign-up deadline (optional event for MS)
Thursday, February 25	Pre-Festival Concert, 7:00 (7 th /8 th Grade Band, Jazz Band, HS)
Fri. or Sat., March 11-12	MSBOA Band Festival (final schedule announced in mid Feb.)
Saturday, March 19	HS State Solo and Ensemble <i>Optional; must get a "1" at district to qualify</i>
Tuesday, March 29	Jackson County HS Honors Band Day (optional for HS band students) <i>Rehearsal from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., performance at 7:00 p.m.</i>
Saturday, April 16	MS Band Solo & Ensemble, Jonesville HS (optional for MS band)
Wednesday, May 18	Spring Band Concerts, 7:00 (all MS and HS bands)
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day Parade, downtown Grass Lake (Marching Band) <i>Report to cannon by 9:30 a.m.</i>
Sunday, June 5	Graduation (HS Band) Report at 1:45 p.m.

Handbook Agreement

Parents and guardians, please read over this handbook with your students and sign below. Please add your email address to receive the most up-to-date information about band performances and volunteer opportunities.

I have read the band handbook and am aware of the grading and attendance policies for band. I have kept a copy of the calendar and am aware of all performance dates.

Student Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Parent email address (print clearly): _____

I will send approximately 1-2 emails per month with a newsletter and reminders. This is the best way to keep up with what's new in the band program.

This signed sheet is due to Mrs. Wilson by Friday, September 11.