

Novi Middle School

Band Handbook 2019 - 2020

Welcome to Middle School Band!!

My name is Adam Ronning and I am in my third year as the Novi Middle School Band Director! I am very excited about the 2019-2020 school year and the opportunities to share great music making with the Novi Middle School Bands. Please read the information below about our courses, our basic guidelines and syllabus, as well as other important information:



Mr. Ronning's Contact Information:

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Schoology

Twitter: @BandsNovi

Please check out our Schoology page and twitter page. We will be using Schoology exclusively for calendar, assignment, and assessment information, as well as reminders and updates.

***There is a Schoology App that you can use and set up for push notifications so you can receive important information, announcements, and posts from your students' teachers!**

7th Grade CONCERT BAND:

Band at Novi Middle School offers students many new and exciting performance opportunities as they continue to develop as young musicians. Each student will perform at least three times with the full band, with numerous additional performances available. These include Solo & Ensemble Festival, where students can perform a solo or in a small ensemble with friends, the Music in the Parks Festival during our Cedar Point trip, the Memorial Day Parade, and District Band Festival where students have the opportunity to perform for judges who provide insightful feedback, hosted at Novi High School. In addition to these annual opportunities, we often add to this events like going to Paradise Park as a music department (we reserve the whole park just for us!). Students may possibly switch to a special instrument that is needed in our band.

8th Grade SYMPHONIC BAND:

The primary difference between Concert Band and Symphonic Band is that the Symphonic Band is expected to reach a higher level of sophistication in every area because the musicians have an additional year of experience. The Symphonic Band also allows the student to perform with the High School Band on multiple occasions including a high school football game, which provides a window into Novi's award-winning high school band program. Mr. Diroff (the high school director) and I encourage all 8th grade students to continue their music education into high school, regardless of experience or ability level. High school band is a once in a lifetime experience

Materials List:

7th Grade Band Students:

1. Instrument in good working condition
2. *Sound Innovations* Book 2
3. Padlock for instrument storage locker (if needed/lockers will be assigned)
4. Folder (preferably not binder) for band ONLY (sturdy, high-quality folder—larger is better!)
5. Pencil (keep one in your folder or instrument case so you never forget it)
6. Woodwind instruments: Instrument, mouthpiece, ligature, box of reeds, cleaning swab.
7. Brass instruments: Instrument, mouthpiece, valve oil, slide grease,, cleaning snake.
8. Percussionists: Bell kit/ practice pad for at home, stick/mallet bag, snare drum sticks, bell mallets.

Please label all sticks and equipment.

9. Metronome/tuner for home use (free apps available).

8th Grade Band Students:

Same as 7th grade list, but the book is *Sound Innovations: Ensemble Development* (Book 3) (classroom book only: students will NOT need their own copy)

TO ALL STUDENTS: Please note that the school does not provide reeds, oils, waxes, or any other standard care equipment. Students using a school instrument should provide their own mouthpiece/ligature, neckstrap, and reeds. Students may purchase reeds, oil, waxes, sticks, etc. through Mr. Ronning who works directly with Marshall Music.

Grade Requirements:

20% Rehearsal Skills / Practice Skills

Students need to arrive to class on time with all instrument parts, music, and pencil while actively contributing to the learning process in the classroom and also follow the general classroom expectations. Each week, students will be expected to follow proper rehearsal skills and will be graded on a scale of 1 to 4 to determine their rehearsal skill level for that week.

The expectation is for each student to practice five days per week. Students will receive a practice skills log in class with instruction on how to fill it out. Practice tips and time management ideas will be discussed in class. In the event that a student is unable to complete the required amount of practice due to special circumstances (i.e. illness, vacation etc.) a note from a parent/guardian will excuse the student from the affected practice record.

Frequent practice of an instrument is as homework is to other classes. **In order for any student to be successful in instrumental music, focused practice is essential. Please encourage your child to play his or her instrument!** *Students who need assistance may make an appointment with the director before or after school.

40% Assignments and Assessments

Playing evaluations:

There will be multiple, short playing evaluations per grading period which will be based on the new concepts learned in class and may also include elements such as posture and hand position. Evaluations will take place during class (**or most can be done at home through video recordings submitted through Schoology**) and will be based on the focus of each day in class (ex: time, articulation, dynamics)

Written assignments/assessments:

These assessments will cover topics like counting rhythms, vocabulary, musical expression, and music theory. These assessments also include the final exam. Cheating (including consciously assisting others cheating) will result in an automatic zero.

40% Concert and Rehearsal Attendance

Concert Attendance Policy:

Because each person is an important part of the group, **all full band performances are required in order to meet the academic expectations of the class**. Concerts are the best way for students to exhibit what they have learned over the course of the year, and they are a vital part of each student's music education. Performances are a unique experience that cannot be re-created. Since unexcused absences from a performance cannot be tolerated, ***a student's overall grade CAN be lowered by a maximum of one letter grade***. The director may consider special circumstances for absence and create an alternative assignment to make up for the missed performance. **Written excuses from the parent must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to a performance**. Emergencies and illness will be treated on an individual basis, but generally an illness excuse must be presented to the teacher within 24 hours of the student's return to school. Excused absences from a concert need to be supplemented. An individual in this situation needs to talk with the director to determine a supplementary assignment.

Rehearsal Attendance Policy:

Before each concert, students will have 1-2 full band rehearsals so they can play their music with every student in their grade, not just the students in their individual class. **These rehearsals are required. The only after-school function that takes precedence over a rehearsal is a school athletic COMPETITION.** Outside of school sports or activities do not excuse a student, nor do school sports practices. The director may consider special circumstances for absence if more than 24 hours' notice is given. Emergencies and illnesses are treated as they are for concerts.

Concert Dress:

- o **COMPLETELY BLACK PANTS (guys and girls) (A FLOOR-LENGTH black skirt is okay).**
- o **Black socks (girls: if applicable)**
- o **COMPLETELY BLACK SHOES**
- o **COMPLETELY WHITE dress shirt**

*Black jeans or athletic pants are not acceptable. Tennis shoes are not acceptable.

*Any student who is unable to acquire appropriate attire must inform the director at least 2 weeks prior to concert so he can find or purchase school-owned items for you to borrow

Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Band Festival

Every spring the ensembles will participate in the District 4 MSBOA Band and Orchestra Festival. The students perform a planned program and sight read new music for a panel of judges who comment on the areas for improvement and strengths of the ensemble. The attendance policy is the same as for other performances.

***Please note that festival will fall on a Friday evening or Saturday. There is no time or location listed because we do not receive that information until 2-3 weeks prior to the event. Please leave the entire day available.**

Solo and Ensemble Festival

Students will have the opportunity to perform at Solo and Ensemble Festival in December. At this event students will perform a solo, in an ensemble, or both in front of a judge. Students will receive feedback on their performance and a rating of I-V (a I is superior). Those students that receive a rating of I or II earn a medal. Students usually find the experience to be quite rewarding, even though it may be a little intimidating the first time. While not required, each student is strongly encouraged to participate in this event. Students MUST play their solo or ensemble piece for the director at least 4 weeks prior to the event in order to participate.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We are hosting Solo & Ensemble this year, and we will need many parent volunteers as students, parents, judges and other music teachers converge on our school on **Saturday, December 7th**. Please consider volunteering for this busy and important event! Detailed information and volunteer forms will be sent home soon.

Respect and Responsibility Policy

In the Novi Middle School Band Room, we work under the expectation that all students have a right to learn and all teachers have a right to teach. The following classroom expectations are to support that expectation:

Classroom Expectations

- Absolutely no talking when the teacher is working
- All music making stops instantly when the teacher gives the signal
- Be Respectful and Prepared
- No Gum, Food or drink in the classroom (water bottle is ok)
- Leaning on music stands is not permitted.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are **strongly encouraged** for all band students. A student working independently with a teacher can develop individual skills as well as learn solo music and repertoire specific to their instrument. Private lessons help students develop the skills necessary to be successful musicians!

Tardies

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and be prepared for class. This is part of the students daily participation grade. **If a student has more than 5 tardies in a marking period that will result with a lunch detention with Mr. Ronning and another detention for each additional tardy.**

Music

Each student will need a quality folder in which to keep their music and class materials. This folder is to go to and from school on a daily basis. Students are responsible to keep track of their music and have it in class. Sheet music and rehearsal books take the place of textbooks for other classes.

Lockers

Each student is assigned a band locker at the beginning of the school year (unless he/she does not want one). Some students may have to share lockers as space is limited. Students are responsible for providing locks to secure their lockers. Novi Middle School cannot be held responsible for items missing from an unlocked locker. **Therefore instruments CANNOT be kept in lockers without a lock. Please provide the combination for your lock to the director.** This information is kept confidential and is only used if a student forgets their combination or in other emergency situations. These lockers are for the convenience of the student so regular school lockers do not get too crowded.

There are some guidelines to using lockers:

Keep instrument in your assigned locker only. Do not use any other locker without the permission of Mr. Ronning

- Keep locker locked at all times
- Do not touch the other students' lockers without their permission
- Do not share your lock combination with others

Novi Middle School is not responsible for lost/stolen items or items that have been tampered with.

Percussion Instruments

Only percussionists enrolled in a band class are allowed to play them. Percussionists are expected to store all auxiliary instruments in the percussion cabinet after each class.

Cell Phones

Cell phones should be turned off and not utilized by the students without specific directions to use them by Mr. Ronning. Inappropriate cell phone usage will affect the student's daily participation grade and can lead to a lunch detention. This class may NOT be recorded (audio, visual, or audio-visual) without the written consent of the course instructor.



We're looking forward to a great year!

Please Sign and Return by Monday, September 9th

By signing below, you are signifying that you...

- ...have read and understand the contents of this handbook.
- ...agree to follow the guidelines found within.
- ...have posted important dates on your calendar and understand the attendance policies
- ...understand all of the locker guidelines

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT INFORMATION

Parent/ Guardian (s) Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Parent's E-mail Address*: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please check this box if you do NOT want your son or daughter to appear in photos or video taken of the band.

Request for chaperones and parent volunteers will be sent out throughout the school year. If you are interested in helping with band events, please send Mr. Ronning a note or email.