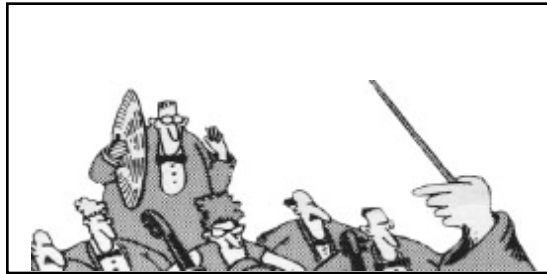


2009-10
MASON MIDDLE SCHOOL
BAND HANDBOOK



After reading the handbook, fill out the participation contract with your parents and bring it to your next band class.

Table of Contents

- I. Program Goals
- II. Student Expectations
- III. Class Rules
- IV. Grading Policy
- V. Discipline
- VI. Equipment Needs
- VII. Contract

I. PROGRAM GOALS

1. To provide appropriate instruction for instrumental technique.
2. To provide a safe and respectful atmosphere for all individuals involved with the program.
3. To work with students toward a common goal of performing music at the highest level of our ability.
4. To help students become independent musicians whose knowledge and skills serve as a basis for lifelong enjoyment of the arts.
5. To provide students with opportunities to develop cooperative and collaborative skills, as well as self-discipline.

II. STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Attitude

Each member is expected to be courteous and willing to work in compliance with the ensemble's standards and goals. Each member is expected to accept guidance and constructive criticism in a positive manner.

Musicianship

I expect each member to be adequately prepared for all rehearsals and performances through individual effort at home and school. Members are responsible for the accurate performance of all music assigned, and should demonstrate flexibility, consistency, and attention to detail.

Discipline

Students are to exhibit self-control and follow instructions in all rehearsals, performances, and on field trips or tours. Self-discipline is also to be demonstrated through evidence of practice at home.

Responsibility

Each student is expected to perform the duties assigned to him or her, and to take proper care of the rehearsal room, storage areas, equipment, and sheet music.

Participation

Each student is expected to be present for all rehearsals, concerts, and festival performances. Any absence from a performance will result in a lowering of the grade. Every member of a performing ensemble is vital, and we all depend on one another.

III. CLASS RULES

Be Prompt

Students are expected to be in the classroom before the bell rings. They are expected to have their instruments and necessary equipment unpacked and at their seats within a reasonable amount of time (2-3 minutes). The beginning of class is not the right time for visiting with friends!



Be Prepared

Students are expected to have all required equipment every day, which includes:

- Instrument (in good playing condition.)
- Assigned method book(s)
- Wireless Ruled Perforated 1-Subject Notebook (no spiral or composition notebooks.)
- Folder (student supplied) for keeping method books and notebook.
- School supplied music folder and sheet music.
- Pencil (Not a pen. Not even erasable pen. Yes, really...) Your pencil needs to be on your music stand and not in your case, in a binder, or in your pocket.
- Instrument accessories and cleaning supplies. Which accessories depends on the instrument you play. See the materials list (available on our web site) for details.

Be Polite

This one covers so much, but basically I expect all students to treat everyone else with respect. Specifically, students must:

- * Enter the room quietly
- * Unpack and begin warming up.
- * Always raise a hand to ask questions or offer comments
- * Refrain from disrupting class
- * Exhibit a positive attitude. I expect students to support one another, and I don't tolerate teasing or put-downs.
- * Leave gum, food and drinks outside the classroom

IV. GRADING POLICY

Grades are figured using the following percentages:

Performance Assessments	60%
Classroom Effort/Adherence to rules	20%
Rehearsal and concert attendance	20%

V. DISCIPLINE

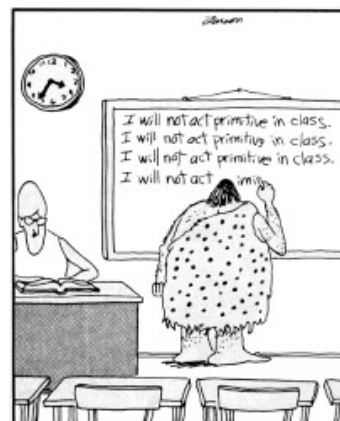
Discipline is usually not a big issue in band. Students usually choose to be in this class and understand that we are working together as a team. To present our best performance, we depend on each member to give his/her best effort at all times. I'm clear about what I expect, and if a student chooses to break rules, that student has chosen to accept consequences. Generally, I follow the following sequence of consequences:

1. Reminder

This may be verbal or a hand signal, depending on the situation. This gives the student the opportunity to correct a behavior and get back on track.

2. Documentation

If a student has been given a reminder and persists, then the behavior will be documented and the student's daily grade lowered. Students who forget instruments and/or other equipment, or choose to break a school rule (such as bringing) will also sign the book. After the third time, students may receive a Mason infraction slip, resulting in detention.



3. Temporary removal from class

There may come a time when a student is unwilling or unable to cooperate, and I cannot have the learning of others disrupted. If a student needs to be temporarily removed from class, he/she will fill out a brief form describing the behavior and what he/she should have done instead. The student may bring this home to you for a signature.

4. Phone call home

In situations where a student's behavior is unacceptable and the student does not self-correct, I will communicate with you to see if we can figure out a good solution.

5. Administrative Referral

If that doesn't work, we'll use a situation report, which refers the student to the school administration for consequences.

VI. EQUIPMENT NEEDS

Please see the “Be Prepared” section under classroom rules (above) for a list of everyday equipment needs. A complete materials list that includes cleaning supplies and accessories is available on our web site: www.karlronning.com/mason.

Students should have a metronome for home practice. A metronome is an essential tool for developing rhythmic accuracy. Students should also have a folding music stand for practice at home and field trips. Without a music stand, students generally put their music on a bed or desk, then have to use poor posture when practicing. They cost around \$15-\$20 at local music stores and online retailers.

Method Books	
Beginning Band	Standard of Excellence, book 1 (red cover)
Intermediate Band	Standard of Excellence, books 1 and 2 (blue cover)
Concert Band	Foundations for Superior Performance
Honor Band	Hal Leonard Advanced Method
	Foundations for Superior Performance

Local Music Stores		
Helmer's Music (2 locations)	31830 Pacific Hwy S.	952-6052
	5501 Steilacoom Blvd.	588-9926
Highland Hill Music Center	6814 6th Ave.	564-8454
Lakewood Music Center	10111-1 Gravelly Lake Dr. SW	581-2926
Ted Brown Music	6228 Tacoma Mall Blvd.	272-3211

VII. Contract

Please sign below indicating you have reviewed the handbook information with your child, and have your child return it to me. This acts as a contract that lets me know you have received the information important to get the year off to a good start, and have read the rules and student expectations.

Finally, by signing here you are letting me know you have reviewed the concert dates and understand that all students are expected to attend concerts scheduled for them.

Thank you, and I look forward to meeting you and working with your child this year.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

Parent signature

Student Name (please print)

Student signature

Date

This page counts as a written quiz for all students!