

2011-12 BAND HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO BAND!

To those who are new, my name is Karl Ronning, and I'm the band teacher. Wow- this will be my 17th year teaching in Tacoma, and my 10th year at Mason. It sure doesn't feel like it's been that long!

I feel very fortunate to be working at this school. Our caring and dedicated parents, staff, and booster club are what make Mason such a special place for kids, and the arts are well supported in our community.

It's wonderful that you have decided to make music a part of your education! I hope you take full advantage of all the opportunities our programs offer. Music can be a truly rewarding and memorable school experience, and I'm looking forward to a great year of learning and making music together.

OUR GOALS

If you signed up for band because you want to learn to play an instrument well, and to be among friends who all want to make great music, then your goals and mine will fit together nicely.

I want to teach you how to play your instrument, read music, and work together in a friendly and respectful atmosphere so we may perform music to the best of our ability.

There will be plenty of opportunities for you to develop cooperative and collaborative skills, and self-discipline through rehearsals and home practice.

Not everyone aspires to become a professional musician (although a lot of them have come from Mason!) I only want to help you become an independent musician, with the knowledge and skills that can serve as a foundation for a lifelong enjoyment of the arts.

CLASS RULES

We will go over these more in-depth during class but they are very simple, and there are only three: (1) Be prompt, (2) Be prepared, and (3) Be polite.

WHAT I EXPECT FROM YOU

I want you to be courteous and willing to work toward our common goals. You need to accept guidance and constructive criticism in a positive way.

Your classmates need you to be prepared for all rehearsals and

performances. This means paying attention to detail and practicing at home as well as school, to improve and develop consistency in your playing. I also expect you to perform whatever duties are assigned to you or to your section, taking care of the rehearsal room, equipment, storage areas, and sheet music.

Lastly, you are expected to participate in all rehearsals, assemblies, field trips, and performances outside of the normal school day. Yes, absences from performances lower your grade, but more importantly, each member of the band is vital. We all come to depend on one another. You are important to us!

GET CONNECTED

Visit and bookmark this web address: www.mustangband.org. Items sent home via backpack express can sometimes get lost. You'll find that the important stuff is usually posted on the site. Receive updates via your web browser or email client program with mustangband.org's RSS feed.

Also, grades online is a great feature on the school district's website. I will try to update grades once a week.

BAND PARENTS

There are many activities throughout the year which, in order to do well, I could use some help from band parents. There are several field trips, evening concerts, and a regional festival to host this year. If you're available, do give me a call. Thank you!

Are you a booster club member? If not, I have to tell you Mason's booster club is a *fabulous* organization that does a tremendous amount of good for the school, and for our music program. Without the boosters, the music department could not provide nearly the same level of service to your kids. I encourage you to attend a meeting, get to know these people, and become a booster club member! Their website is: www.masonboosterclub.com.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

All students need to bring the following items to their seat each day:

1. Sharpened No. 2 pencils. No pens. Not even erasable pen. Yes, really. Make a habit of keeping a few sharp pencils in your instrument case, and

always set one on your music stand at the beginning of class.

2. Notebook. Make that a college ruled, non-spiral, perforated, 1 subject notebook. No composition books or spiral bound notebooks- you have to be able to remove pages without ripping them apart.
3. Instrument in good, working condition. This includes any reeds and accessories required to keep things functioning properly (i.e. valve oil, slide grease, etc.) For a full list by instrument, see the enclosed materials checklist.

Percussionists need to bring a stick bag with 2 pair of drum sticks. I recommend Vic Firth SD1 Generals. Sticks need to be marked with your name. You will need a snare drum (or practice pad) and a bell kit for home practice. Depending on the size of the percussion section, beginners may have to bring their bell kits to and from school.
4. Method book(s). Which ones depend on the class you are in. See below for a list for each class.
5. Folder (student supplied) for keeping your method books and notebook together.
6. School supplied music folder and sheet music.

All students should have a wire music stand (for home practice and field trips) and an inexpensive, electronic metronome.

SHEET MUSIC

Sheet music is really, really expensive. You must keep it neat and safe in the music folder we give you. Please do not put your method books and notebook in the same folder as your sheet music- it will get damaged that way.

It's okay to write on your parts. Good musicians are expected to write on their music, however, marks you make must be erased before the music is collected. Write lightly and always use a pencil. Music is to be returned in the same condition it was handed out.

You will be charged \$3 for lost or severely damaged parts. That is what publishers charge for replacement parts.

METHOD BOOKS

The method book you use is determined by the class you are in. These books can be purchased at local music stores. There is an enhanced version of the Standard of Excellence books that comes with a play-along CD which I recommend.

Beginning Band

"Standard of Excellence", book 1 by Bruce Pearson (red cover)

Intermediate Band

"Standard of Excellence", books 1 and 2 (blue cover)

Concert Band

"Foundations for Superior Performance"

Honor Band

"Foundations for Superior Performance"
-and-
"Hal Leonard Advanced Method"

STORAGE LOCKERS

For your convenience, your instrument may be stored in the band room during school hours. The lockers are not intended to warehouse your instrument 23 hours a day. Take it home.

The routine is to bring your instrument with you in the morning and drop it off any time after 8:00. If you keep your music, reeds, pencils, and notebook in the locker too, then there is no need to be late to class. At the end of the day, stop by the band room to pick up your instrument and take it with you.

Also, use the padlock. Your instrument is valuable. Most are worth \$800 or more. You wouldn't leave a roll of 800 dollar bills lying on the ground, now would you?

HOME PRACTICE

As I've said, your instrument should go home regularly. I recommend you practice only on days you eat food. You don't have to spend hours at it, especially if you learn to practice smart.

Playing an instrument is a physical activity, requiring time and repetition to develop your muscles and coordination. Practice is like a bank- you can only get out what you put in.

Twenty minutes a day is okay, and thirty minutes is pretty good. Please don't kid yourself: putting in two hours on weekends only is fairly useless. I know you're busy. Schedules get full; I get that. Practice does not need to dominate your routine, it just needs to be a part of it. If all you can put in is 15

minutes a day, that's better than nothing. If you use those minutes wisely, you can accomplish quite a bit.

Kids who play large instruments, like the tuba, euphonium, or baritone sax, might be able to check out a second instrument for home practice so they don't have to be lugging it back and forth.

JAZZ BAND

The jazz band is an exciting group of some of the best musicians in our school. Interested 7th and 8th graders are encouraged to audition, and advanced 6th graders may apply as well.

The instruments used in Jazz Band are (2) Alto Saxes, (2) Tenor Saxes, (1) Bari Sax, (4) Trombones, (4) Trumpets, Piano, guitar, bass, and drums.

Mason's jazz band usually meets before school three days a week (Tuesday-Thursday.) We perform at evening concerts, community events, and at jazz festivals/competitions.

Please audition only if you are willing to commit to attending all rehearsals and performances. They are mandatory. Auditions are held October 3-5 and the audition materials are available in the band room.

You must purchase an ASB sticker to participate.

ASB STICKERS

All students enrolled in classes that go on field trips are required to purchase an ASB sticker. That's pretty much the 7th and 8th graders in Jazz Band, Concert Band, and Honor Band. It's not a bad idea for 6th graders to purchase an ASB sticker as well.

THE JOY OF FUNDRAISING

The music department is partially funded by an annual magazine sale in the fall, run through the booster club. I know fundraising is no one's favorite hobby, but it has become necessary, and covers about 40% of our operating costs.

This money goes to maintaining and replacing school instruments, subsidizing field trips, and purchasing student awards and office supplies. I hope you will consider participating. If magazine sales are not your thing, but would like to make a donation, we would be most appreciative!

CONCERT PERFORMANCES

One of the real joys of being in band is getting to perform. At Mason, we have lots and lots of performances, and it's important you know which concerts you will be involved in. Please get your performance dates down on your family calendar today!

Concert Attire

Our bands wear uniforms on stage. If an item needs to be purchased, please consider taking care of it now.

Beginning and Intermediate Bands

Red polo shirt, khaki (tan) pants, dark dress shoes and socks.

Concert Band

Navy blue polo shirt, khaki (tan) pants, dark dress shoes and socks.

Honor Band

Boys: Black long-sleeve dress shirt, black pants, black socks and dress shoes. Tie optional.

Girls: Black floor length dress/gown, or a black shirt or blouse with black pants. If a skirt is worn, it must be floor length. Black dress shoes.

CONTACT INFO

Karl Ronning, Band Teacher
Mason Middle School
3801 N. 28th St.
Tacoma, WA 98407

Office: (253) 571-7035
Email: kronnin@tacoma.k12.wa.us
Web: www.mustangband.org

You may also send messages through my Tacoma School District Swift page.

2011-12 Band Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Location	Groups
Wed, Oct. 26	Costume Concert	6:30 p.m.	Gym	BB, IB, BO, IO
Thur, Nov. 3	Fall Ensemble Night	6:30 p.m.	Off-campus	select HO & HB students
Thur, Nov. 17	Fall Band Concert	6:30 p.m.	Gym	CB, HB, JB
Fri, Dec. 9	FT to Narrows Glen Retirement Home	TBA (periods 2-4)	Off-campus	CB, HO
Thur, Dec. 15	Music Dept. Assembly	AM Assembly	Gym	HO, HB, JB, Choir (7/8)
Fri, Dec. 16	FT to Washington-Hoyt	All day	Off-campus	IB, IO
Thur, Jan. 26	Beginning Band Concert I	6:30 p.m.	Cafeteria	EB, BB
Wed, Feb. 8	FT to Jazz Festival	All day	Off-campus	JB
Thur, Feb. 9	Winter Ensemble Night	6:30 p.m.	Off-campus	select HO & HB students
Wed, Feb. 15	Winter Band/Orchestra Concert I	6:30 p.m.	Off-campus	CB, HB, HO
Sat, Mar. 17	Instrumental Solo/Ensemble @ First Creek	All day*	Off-campus	select students
Thur, Mar. 22	FT to Band Festival @ Stadium	All day	Off-campus	HB, CB
Wed, Mar. 28	Winter Band Concert II	6:30 p.m.	Gym	EB, BB, IB, JB
Sat, Apr. 21	Junior Daffodil Parade	9 a.m. to noon	Off-campus	HB, CB
Thur, May 17	Spring Ensemble Night	6:30 p.m.	Off-campus	select HO & HB students
Wed, May 23	Finale Band Concert	6:30 p.m.	Gym	HB, CB, IB, JB
Thur, May 31	Beginning Band Concert	6:30 p.m.	Cafeteria	EB, BB
Fri, June 1	FT to Leavenworth	8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Off-campus	HO, HB, Choir (8)

HB-Honor Band, CB-Concert Band, IB-Intermediate Band, BB-Beginning Band,
 HO-Honor Orchestra, IO-Intermediate Orchestra, BO-Beginning Orchestra,
 EB-Elementary Band, EO-Elementary Orchestra, JB-Jazz Band

*S/E Performance times are scheduled in 10 minute blocks. The actual time involved is more likely to be 45 minutes. Students wishing to participate should keep their schedule open between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. until their performance times are known. Schedules are usually published one to two weeks prior to the event date.

**Any updates to our event calendar will be reflected
 on the calendar page on our web site: www.mustangband.org**

Materials List

Band is a unique class, often involving money. There are several items a student needs to have in order to be successful. Fortunately, most of these items may be used for several years.

- Wire music stand
(for use during home practice and field trips.)
- Metronome (for home practice.) There are some inexpensive electronic models available.
- Instrument in GOOD playing condition.
- Method books- see below.
- (1) Wireless Ruled Perforated 1-Subject Notebook. (No spiral or composition notebooks.)
- (1) Folder (student supplied) for keeping method books and notebook. I will hand out an additional folder for you to keep your sheet music in.
- (3) No. 2 pencils
- Instrument accessories and cleaning supplies. Which accessories depends on the instrument you play- read below.

Method Books

Elementary & Beginning Bands

Standard of Excellence, book 1 (red cover)

Intermediate Band

Standard of Excellence, book 1 (red cover)

Standard of Excellence, book 2 (blue cover)

Concert Band

Foundations for Superior Performance

Concert & Honor Bands

Foundations for Superior Performance

Hal Leonard Advanced Method

Instrument Accessories

Flute

- Cleaning rod
- swab (purchased from a store or homemade out of 3×10 inch strip of old tee-shirt)
- Polishing cloth
- Optional: pad saver

Oboe & Bassoon

- Two medium-soft cane reeds.
(Your private teacher should help select reeds for you. If you are not taking lessons, please see me for a list of good sources.)
- a small container of water (a film canister with snug lid works great)
- Reed case
- cleaning swabs
- Cleaning cloth
- Seat strap

Clarinet & Saxophone

- Reeds- see below
 - Cleaning swab*
 - Cleaning cloth
 - Cork grease*
 - Pad savers (optional)
- *A cleaning kit (purchased at music stores) will contain these items.*

Percussion

- Bell kit and snare drum (or practice pad) for home practice and/or use at school.
- Drum sticks, two pair (Vic Firth SD1 General are recommended)
- Stick bag
- Drum key

All sticks, mallets, stick bags, and percussion equipment should be marked with students' names.

Brass Instruments (trumpet, trombone, tuba, etc.)

- Valve oil (horns use rotor oil, trombones use slide oil, or better yet, slide cream and a very small spray-bottle of water. Palm sized spritzer bottles can be purchased at local drug stores.)
- Cleaning brushes and snake
- Slide grease
- Polishing cloth

Cleaning kits usually contain all that stuff listed above.

Clarinet/Saxophone Reeds

Elementary & Beginning band: Strength 2 Rico reeds.

Intermediate Band: Strength 2.5 Rico or Rico Royal reeds.

Concert & Honor Band: Strength 3 Van Doren, Rico Royal, or strength 4 Mitchell Laurie reeds.

Students should have 3 reeds in a reed-guard with them at all times. I recommend buying reeds by the box.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

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.

Specifically, I'd like to make sure that parents know which dates their children's concerts are on, what they need to wear for performances, what materials they need in order to be successful, and that they are expected to take their instruments home regularly and practice.

Finally, by signing here you are letting me know you understand that all students are expected to attend the concerts at which they are scheduled to perform.

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

**Please turn this page in Friday, September 2.
(This page counts as a written quiz for all students)**