

Goldenview Middle School

2023-24

Band Handbook

Dan Whitfield, director

August 1, 2023

Dear Band Students and Parents,

I would like to welcome you to the 2023-24 school year. I am excited to be here at Goldenview! If you are new to Goldenview this year, welcome! And for those of you returning, thank you for continuing with music!

This handbook is a resource for both parents and students to help with understanding the procedures and policies of the Goldenview Middle School Band Program. Some of these policies may be different from past years, so please read this handbook carefully.

Included as the last page of this handbook is the student behavior contract. This is each student's first assignment in band. It should be returned to Mr. Whitfield no later than August 24th. This first assignment is one way of letting me know that each family has received this information and read it.

I am looking forward to this exciting year and we know it will be both a fun and educational experience for all students. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone.

Sincerely,

Mr. Whitfield

(907) 742-8209

whitfield_daniel@asdk12.org

Performance Ensembles

Band I – Intermediate Band (Periods 5 and 7)

This group is primarily for 7th graders who have completed a year's worth of band instruction in the 6th grade. Students will develop their individual technique on their instruments while learning to work together within a group. Emphasis is placed on tone quality, music reading skills and teamwork.

Band II – Advanced Band (Period 3)

This group is primarily made up of 8th graders who successfully completed Intermediate Band or who auditioned into Advanced Band. Students will continue to refine tone quality, music reading and teamwork while focusing on more challenging music and honing their performance skills.

Jazz Band (Optional Before School Group, 7:20-8:10 AM)

This group will deal with the performance of Jazz music in the Big Band ensemble setting. It is open for participation to students who play all instruments including piano, bass and drums. Auditions will be held at the beginning of the school year (starting on August 29th, at 7:20 AM) and will be based on attitude, musicianship and attendance.

Since these groups are all PERFORMANCE ensembles, attending concerts is an absolutely fundamental part of participating in any of these groups. Concert Dates will be given as soon as they have been scheduled.

Grading Policies/Guidelines

There are three categories in the grading system:

- Assignments/Tests
- Classroom Participation/Citizenship
- Performances

Grades are based on the percentage of points earned throughout the quarter/semester. Students and parents will be kept updated on a regular basis so that they will be able to monitor the student's progress. Zangle/Q will be updated every Friday.

Assignments/Tests will include all written work, playing tests and any other assignments (such as the Parent Information Form at the back of this Handbook). Due dates for written work and assignments will be strictly adhered to – with students who fail to turn in work by the required date receiving partial or no credit. Students will receive ½ credit for an assignment being one day late. After one day, the assignment will receive no credit. However, Playing Tests may be retaken as many times as a student wishes up until the end of the quarter. Students will be encouraged to visit Mr. Whitfield during lunch or afterschool to improve their grade.

Classroom Participation/Citizenship will include student behavior and attendance. Students will be graded on whether they are meeting classroom expectations every day (see Mr. Whitfield's Rehearsal Expectations page in this Handbook). Basically, every student who shows up to class on time with a good attitude, their instrument, their music and a pencil will receive 100% in this category. If a student violates any of Mr. Whitfield's expectations for a rehearsal, then that student will lose all participation points for the day. Tardies will result in ½ credit.

Performances will include attendance at all concerts and performances done by the ensemble that each individual student plays in. Showing up on time, behaving appropriately and having the proper uniform are all components of this grade. While concerts are absolutely mandatory, I do recognize that occasionally things occur that force a student to miss a concert. If these fall into the category of Illness or Family Emergency, then a student would receive an excused absence from a concert. Non-emergency absences that are approved by Mr. Whitfield must be made up with a 4 page research paper on a musical subject chosen by Mr. Whitfield or an alternate assignment chosen by Mr. Whitfield. Students that miss a performance without being excused will have their quarter grade lowered by two (2) letter grades.

In addition to these grading categories, there will periodically be opportunities for students to receive *Extra Credit*. More information will be provided about this later.

Grading Scale

90% - 100%	A
80% - 89.9%	B
70% - 79.9%	C
60% - 69.9%	D
0% - 59.9%	F

Mr. Whitfield's 7 Daily Rehearsal Expectations



1. Always bring your instrument, music, a pencil, and a positive attitude.



2. Be silent when Mr. Whit is talking.



3. No food, drinks, or **gum**.



4. Take all handouts and sheet music with you at the end of class.



5. Respect your classmates, your director, and yourself.



6. Participate everyday (play instrument, ask questions, write in music, etc)



7. Strive for excellence everyday.

Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Consistently be on time to class and to have with them all required equipment needed for the class (including their instrument, music and a pencil).
- Practice regularly and effectively (see Practice Expectations below).
- Consistently put forth the effort to sound and act your best.
- Listen to and follow the director's instructions (including all substitutes or guests).
- Be respectful of all teachers and fellow students.

Some Common Sense Things

These should be known to everyone, but as a reminder:

- Put trash in the garbage and keep the room clean.
- Report vandalism or theft to the director immediately.
- Take care of your instrument and music, they are expensive to replace (and remember, school instruments need to be used for years to come!).
- Leave all food and drinks in the cafeteria.
- If it is not yours, leave it alone! (Especially other people's instruments and music.)

Practice Expectations

There is no substitute for consistent, careful practice. If you hope to improve, you must practice. Band students should think of practicing as doing their homework for Band class. If you schedule a regular practice time, you will be more likely to get into the habit of practicing every day.

The amount of practice needed for each student to succeed varies for each individual, but you should assume that you need to practice until you get it right several times! Try not to practice mistakes; only perfect practice makes perfect. Use a good chair and music stand, and try to practice in a quiet place where you can think without distractions. You should also try to use a metronome as a tool in your practicing (many of our playing tests will be done with the metronome as well!).

Private Music Instruction

Many Goldenview students take private lessons on their instrument with a specialist. While this is not a requirement, lessons are a great opportunity for one-on-one attention from a professional musician. Lessons (along with consistent practice) can greatly improve a student's rate of progress and is a nice way to supplement/reinforce what is learned in band class. If you are interested in taking private lessons, Mr. Whitfield can provide you with a list of recommended teachers in the area.

School-Owned Equipment and Music

If you are fortunate enough to have been entrusted with a school-owned instrument, you are responsible for its day-to-day care. There is a district-wide maintenance fee of \$40/year (additional \$20 for summer) for school-owned wind instruments. Please understand that instruments are very expensive to buy and repair. School-owned instruments also need to last for many years in order to be used by many students. Students who fail to properly care for their school-owned instrument will have the privilege of its use revoked. Please treat all instruments and music with respect and with the idea that we need to preserve what we have.

Band Uniforms

The Goldenview Middle School Music Band has an official uniform for concert performances. Students will be ordering a polo shirt from Goldenview that will be worn at each of our concerts. In addition to the Goldenview shirt, each student will need to wear black pants/long black skirt and black shoes. You will receive more information about ordering polo shirts in the near future.

Supplies

EVERYONE: Instrument in good working condition, pencil, folding music stand (strongly suggested for home practice), metronome (strongly suggested for home practice), 1" 3 ring binder with clear plastic sheets to hold sheet music.

FLUTE: cleaning rod and cloth

OBOE: swab, plenty of reeds, film canister for soaking reed before use

BASSOON: swab, plenty of reeds, seat strap, film canister for soaking reed before use

CLARINET: swab/pad saver, cork grease, plenty of reeds, reed guard

SAXOPHONE: swab/pad saver, plenty of reeds, reed guard, neck strap

TRUMPET: valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning coil

FRENCH HORN: valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush

TROMBONE: tuning slide lubrication (either oil, grease, slide-o-mix), mouthpiece brush

BARITONE: valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush

TUBA: valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush

PERCUSSION: snare drum sticks, hard plastic mallets, yarn mallets, felt timpani mallets (7th/8th Graders), stick bag (optional, but very helpful)

All supplies and method books should be brought to class on a daily basis!

Method Books

Intermediate Band: Standard of Excellence, Volume 1 and 2 (Red and Blue)

Advanced Band: I Recommend by James Ployhar

Local music stores –
Music Man
The Horn Doctor

521 West Tudor Road
1000 Ingra Street

561-7001
272-4676

Student Agreement and Behavior Contract
Goldenview Middle School Band Program
2023-24

By signing the following agreement, I, _____,
understand and agree to the policies required for the Goldenview Middle School Band
program. I have read the Band Handbook online (www.goldenviewband.org) outlining
my requirements. By not following the guidelines set in the handbook, I realize that my
grade may lower as a result. Furthermore, consistent inappropriate behavior may result in
my removal from the band program.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date