

Grundy Center Middle School Band

2024-2025

Welcome to the GCMS Band! I know that you will have many questions, and hopefully this handbook will answer most of them. Please read this entire document as it has lots of information that you need. If you have any questions or wish to contact me, you may call me at school or at home, as well as email me.

School Phone: (319) 825-5449

Home Phone: (319) 269-6925 (also text)

School Email: avan@spartanpride.net

Band is an elective and participation is voluntary, but since you are here I am assuming that you want to be a better musician and that you want the band to become a better ensemble.

I can guarantee that band will be uplifting, fulfilling and challenging in addition to being fun, but I doubt any teacher can tell you that coursework will be fun all the time. The work is easy if done a little at a time but very difficult if saved until the end of the TRI.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

1) Your instrument, in good condition. There should be no major problems with your instrument (see “instrument care”), and your instrument should be clean and “taken care of” (i.e. oiled, greased, etc.). If a repair is needed, I can give your instrument to West Music, but you or your parents will be responsible for the payment. If you play a school instrument, the school will pay for **general** maintenance. You will be responsible for any damage.

Check the instrument care guidelines for additional information (in the files section).

2) Accessories, such as reeds, sticks, valve oil, etc. You can get all of these items from me during your lesson time, or before/after school, but **not** when you come down for band class.

You may also order these (and other things) from westmusic.com or (800) 248-7004 and ask for Christine Anderson. West Music visits every Thursday and they will deliver items for you.

3) Each student needs a pencil at every rehearsal. I have been performing for over 40 years and I still need to write things in my music. So do you (unless you’re perfect . . .).

4) Your music, which I will provide. Please keep your music in your folder and please keep your folder in the folder cabinet. You will each be assigned a numbered folder slot. This way, you can keep track of where your music is (and so can I). Please write on your music, **but only with pencil**. If you lose or damage your music, you will need to reimburse the school for the reprinting costs (some of these parts cost up to \$5.00-\$10.00 each so be careful with your music).

Many of you will share stands during rehearsal, but you will need to maintain your own folders and copies of the music. **This is so you can practice it on your own.**

5) Dress clothes for concerts. You must look good as well as sound good. Pants and band polos are required for concerts (jeans, khakis or dress pants, no sweats, no shorts, no athletic wear, leggings or holes in jeans please!) Band polos will be ordered soon after the beginning of school.

POLICIES:

1) Attendance: is required at all rehearsals, lessons, and performances. The reason for this is that when you are not here, it not only hurts your playing, but the entire band as well. They count on you to play your part. Attendance is part of your grade each trimester - so *be here*. It's that simple. I will post the calendar for the year that has all of your performance dates on it.

If there is a conflict with a rehearsal or performance, PLEASE tell me about it as soon as you know of it. I do not accept excuses less than two weeks before any performance, except in an emergency. This is important, because if you miss a performance with no reasonable excuse given, you will receive an "F" for the six-week session (on average), and no higher than a "C" for the trimester.

****NOTE:** "Not having a ride" is not an acceptable excuse. If you need a ride, call another band member who lives near you.

2) Rehearsal Behavior: This is also part of your grade. How you act is as important as how you perform.

REMEMBER - NO FOOD, POP, CANDY, OR GUM IN THE MUSIC ROOM

3) Lessons: Lessons are required of all band students. You will be assigned a time that corresponds with your schedule.

4) Performances: The performances include concerts (usually Fall, Winter, and Spring but this year is different). Attendance is required at all of these. (see calendar)

Individual performances are optional and include NCIBA solo/ensemble contest (more info later), and conference festival (more info later) if we choose to go, or Adventureland.

5) Practice time: Everyone is busy. I know that many students do not have much time during the week outside of homework, sports, etc.. The ideal is that each band student will prepare his or her music to the best of their ability. ***You practice for results, not minutes.***

6) Care of school equipment: Students are responsible for any damage to school equipment and for maintaining everything we use with the greatest of care. This includes being organized, not losing music, leaving things out after class, etc. Please take care of our facility and equipment.