

Lawton C. Johnson
Summit Middle School
7th Grade Band Handbook



2024 - 2025
Mr. Piepoli

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

I would like to welcome all of you to the 2024 - 2025 school year for the 7th Grade Band at Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School. I am extremely excited to be working with your children, we certainly have a great year of musical adventures ahead of us.

This year, we have approximately 60 students participating in the 7th Grade Band. We will meet Wednesdays, and Fridays on BOC (Band, Orchestra, Chorus) days during period 4. In addition, all 7th Grade Band members will have a small group lesson during a rotating period, once per week.

Each student reviewed the lesson schedule on the first day of band. It is important that all students are aware of when and where their lesson will take place, as this is a significant component of their grade. I will be sure to post the lesson schedule on my Google Classroom each month so your child can access it at their convenience. The students will come out of an academic class once per week, but the period rotates throughout the day. This ensures that they will not miss the same class each week. The lessons are an integral part of your child's music education and it is important that everyone attends every lesson. In the event that an unexpected conflict arises, please contact me and we can work things out on an individual basis.

As with the development of any skill, practicing at home is necessary in order to be sure that everyone maximizes their individual potential. I understand that various students will be at different ability levels, but all I ask is that everyone gives 100% effort in each lesson, band rehearsal, and performance.

I know that your child is going to have a great experience in the 7th Grade Band and through individual and group work, everyone will improve and gain confidence in themselves as musicians. Music has a way of bringing everyone together allowing us the opportunity to create many great things. I am invested in your child's success and will do whatever I can to help them throughout the year.

If you have any questions or concerns over the course of the school year, please don't hesitate to email me at jpiepoli@summit.k12.nj.us. In the event that you would like to speak on the phone, we can arrange a phone conference through email. Also, please feel free to visit my website (jpiepoli.summit.k12.nj.us) for all information and updates throughout the school year.

I look forward to a great year with the 7th Grade Band as well as having the opportunity to work with each and every one of your children.

John Piepoli

Assessment in band will be based on the following categories:

➤ **ENSEMBLE PARTICIPATION**

The students will have a full band period every Wednesday and Friday on BOC (Band, Orchestra, Chorus) Days during Period 4, which is also their Physical Education/Health period. Students should report directly to the band room at the beginning of the period and be prepared with a working instrument, music folder, and a pencil. *This category is worth 100 points for the quarter.*

➤ **LESSON PARTICIPATION**

The students will have a weekly lesson with Mrs Mongioj, Ms. Morley or myself. This lesson will help each student to enhance the skills on their instrument and to become a better musician and performer. The weekly lessons rotate periods from week to week and **are mandatory**. Students will be excused from the lesson if they have a quiz / test / lab or presentation, but they must communicate with me. An email with teacher CC'd will be required. Everyone is responsible for making up any missed lessons. Each student should go to his or her classroom teacher **first** to hand in homework and get the daily assignment, and then they should report to lessons. Lesson rotations can be found on my Google Classroom. *This category is worth 10 points per week.*

➤ **INDEPENDENT ASSIGNMENTS**

Throughout the quarter students will be given various assignments that will need to be completed. This may include, but not limited to, a playing evaluation in small group lessons and the submission of assignments on time. *This category ranges from 10-50 points per assignment.*

➤ **PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

This category will cover all concert performances and events that the band participates in. In the event that a concert does not occur on a particular marking period, students will be assessed on assigned material during an in class performance. *This category is worth 50 points*

*If your child is having difficulties in another subject area and you are having concerns about them missing class, please contact me ASAP. We want all of our children to succeed in all aspects of their education and will try to find a solution for your child.

❖ **EXTRA-CURRICULAR BAND ACTIVITIES**

There are several band related, extracurricular activities that students have an opportunity to participate in. Some groups are by teacher nomination, while others require an audition. These are great opportunities for students to experience additional ensembles, repertoire, and performances, all benefiting their musical development and growth. Students can participate in Stage Band / Jazz Lab Band, at LCJSMS as well as other outside music groups. Any student who is interested in taking private lessons can speak with Mr. Piepoli about teachers in the area.

INSTRUMENT CARE/SUPPLIES

WOODWINDS

- Swab after every playing session
- Always have a working reed and extras available
- Clean mouthpiece regularly
- Check for leaks/missing pads/loose screws
- Clean outside of instrument

FLUTE

- Thin piece of fabric for cleaning the inside of the flute
- Soft cloth to clean the exterior of the flute
- A [Cleaning rod](#) (should be supplied with your rental)

OBOE/BASSOON

- Small glass to hold water (i.e. size of shot glass)
- Oboe: Feather or Silk swab recommended
- [Cork grease](#) (should be supplied with your rental)
- [Silk Swab](#)
- 3 Medium Soft Oboe reeds and case holder

CLARINET/SAXOPHONE

- Extra reeds, "Vandoren" Size 2.5 or 3 reeds (Blue Box is recommended).
- Reed case to hold at least 4 reeds
- [Cork grease](#) (should be supplied with your rental)
- [Silk swab](#)

BRASS

- Make sure all tuning slides work
- Valves and slide must be oiled
- Mouthpieces should be clean and sanitary
- Instruments should be cleaned periodically

TRUMPET, FRENCH HORN, TROMBONE BARITONE

- [Valve oil](#) (should be supplied with your rental)
- [Tuning slide cream](#)
- Mouthpiece Brush
- Polishing Cloth - Can be any piece of soft cloth
- French Horns - [Rotor oil](#) (should be supplied with your rental)

TROMBONE

- [Slide oil](#) (should be supply with your rental)
- [Tuning slide cream](#)
- Mouthpiece Brush
- Polishing Cloth - Can be any piece of soft cloth

PERCUSSION

- Have all of your sticks and mallets in a stick bag (with your name on it). This will protect them from excess wear and prevent you from losing them.
- [Stick bag](#)
- [Pair of drum sticks](#) - Vic Firth 5A or Pro Mark 5A
- [Pair of hard plastic xylophone mallets](#)
- [Pair of soft rubber mallets](#)
- [Drum pad](#)
- Alternatively you might want to purchase a percussion stick set:
 - [Innovative percussion](#) (drum pad sold separately)
 - [Vic Firth](#) (drum pad sold separately)
 - [Pro Mark](#) (drum pad sold separately)

ALL INSTRUMENTS

- Proper case storage is essential to keep your instrument in the best possible condition.
- Be careful of your instrument during rehearsals, try not to drop it or hit anything with it.
- Take care of your instrument and it will take care of you!

PREPARATIONS FOR REHEARSALS & LESSONS

MATERIALS

- Pencil and eraser
- Folder with music
- Instrument in working condition

CONDUCT IN THE BAND ROOM

- Promptness to rehearsals and lessons
- No eating, drinking, or chewing gum
- Keep the band room neat (there are almost 200 students using the room each week)
- Proper warm-up upon entering the band room
- You must be silent whenever any teacher steps on the podium
- Only touch and play your own instrument

BAND RULES

- Play your instrument only when instructed to do so
- If you have a question, raise your hand, please do not call out.
- When the conductor stops conducting, **STOP** playing and do not talk, **LOOK**, eyes on the conductor, and **LISTEN** to instructions.

RENTING/PURCHASING AN INSTRUMENT

You may visit some of our local vendors to rent or buy an instrument. Some of these include [Elefante Music](#) in New Providence, [Music & Arts](#) in Livingston or the [Music Shop](#) in Boonton.. If you are ready to purchase an instrument, please check with myself or another music teacher so we can lead you in the right direction. Whatever you do, please don't buy instruments from places like Walmart, Target or Amazon. We have unfortunately seen students purchase some poor quality instruments. Please let us help you! Instruments will be provided from the school free of charge to students who play oboe, bassoon, tenor sax, bari sax, bass clarinet, french horn, baritone, and tuba. All other instruments (except percussion) are expected to be secured by the student either through purchase or rent. Percussionists only need sticks, mallets and a stick bag. We have a small amount of instruments available to those who have a financial need. Please note that a rental fee may be applied depending on the level of financial assistance. All instrument rentals, free or fee will be required to sign a rental agreement form. The rental agreement form will be provided when the instrument is issued.

- ★ Below are the concert dates, and concert attire. Please add these dates to your calendar and secure the correct clothing for our performances.

2024 / 2025 7th Grade Band Performance Dates:

This year we have several wonderful performance opportunities planned for your children to showcase their musical achievements.

- Holiday Concert - Tuesday, December 10, 2024 @ 6:30pm - LCJSMS Auditorium
- Spring Concert - Wednesday, May 14, 2025 @ 8:00pm - LCJSMS Auditorium

★ CONCERT ATTIRE

- **Option 1:** Black button down shirt, black dress pants, black socks & black dress shoes.
- **Option 2:** Black blouse, black dress pants or a black skirt/dress WITH black leggings or black tights, & black dress shoes.

Because we want to look our best at our performances, any students who are not in compliance with the concert attire will not be allowed to perform and will be required to complete the alternate assignment.

*Since band is a performing art and these performances are part of our curriculum, **all students are required to attend each concert.** This is a part of the class and a commitment that each student musician has to the ensemble. All performances count as a 50 point performance assessment grade. In the event that your child is not able to attend the concert, an alternative assessment will be given in order for them to receive credit for the performance.

*The alternate assignment can be found on the last page of this handbook.

ALTERNATE CONCERT ASSIGNMENT:

Any student who misses a school concert will be required to submit this alternate assignment. All make-up work must be submitted at least one week before the end of the quarter. It is the student's responsibility to pick up this assignment from their music teacher.

Assignment requirements - REVIEW A CONCERT: Attend a concert performance featuring the **type of music you play.** Ideally, the concert you attend should be a middle school band concert in one of the neighboring towns, if this is not possible, other age group concerts will be acceptable. Write a review of the concert you attended. Students must attach a copy of the program to the final submission. The review should discuss each piece of music on the program. Comment on the content, historical/social significance of the music (if any), and the quality of the performance. You might also include a brief critique of the performers. (Ex. What did the music make you think about? Is there any other music that the piece reminds you of? What mood(s) do you think the composer was trying to create? Why? If the concert is also reviewed in a local paper or online, you may attach that review to your concert program and comment on the review as well. Your concert review should be 5 or more paragraphs, double-spaced and easily legible (500 words or more).

Concert Review Rubric:

CONCERT REVIEW 50pts	Student Self Grade	Teacher Grade
Concert is relevant to your instrument, ensemble, and you have the program attached to your paper. (10pts)		
Body Paragraph 1. Discuss the pieces on the program. (Favorite piece, least favorite piece, style, jazz, classical, pop etc.) (10pts)		
Body Paragraph 2. Discuss the historical significance of the music. What era of music? Any historical significance of that music? (10pts)		
Body Paragraph 3. Musical critique of the performers. Highlight positives, negatives, skills, expression, etc.. Attach any written articles about the concert. (10pts)		
The overall length is at least 5 paragraphs consisting of 3 body paragraphs, intro and conclusion. 3-5 sentences in each paragraph totalling 500+ words. Spelling, grammar, and punctuation is correct. If you use outside research, please cite the sources (10pts)		