



ATHEY CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

BAND INFORMATION HANDBOOK PT. 1

Hello Athey Creek Band Families!

WELCOME TO BAND! I'm so ready to return to teaching the most fun class around, seeing our new and returning band students, and ushering in more musical greatness at our brand new, state of the art Athey Creek Middle School!

Our band program continues to thrive! Last year, we were so proud to participate in several jazz festivals, a parade, perform alongside high school bands on the stage at West Linn, and take first place at our band festival in Seattle! There are so many great experiences in store for every student this year, and I'm so thankful to be able to provide them a space where they can shine both as an individual and as part of a team.

I am committed to provide every student and every family the best music experience possible! Just as our group relies on each other to play their part, I hope that you will find you can rely on me to help coordinate and find solutions for anything that comes up. Please never hesitate to get in touch for any reason if there's anything I can ever do to help.

You might think there would be a lot more to know about band - and you're right! Our first assignment this year is for students AND parents to head over to Google Classroom together to look over additional information that's important for our year in band. **Please reach out to me with the contact information below if you need help with Google Classroom.**

Please return the final page of this document and complete the Google Classroom assignment by September 6.

Thank you!

Ryan Uldall
Athey Creek MS Band Director
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INFO SOURCES/THINGS TO KNOW

- **Google Classroom!** Assignments and much teacher/student communication will be through this platform.
- **Social Media:** Follow us on Instagram @atheycreekband. Mr. Uldall is in charge of all postings. If you would prefer your student to not have their picture posted, there is a section on the handbook assignment to opt out.
- **Communication Home:** I will be using email through Synergy (ParentVUE) to keep parents connected to the band program, so please keep your email address updated with the office and with me and check it regularly.
- **Band Website:** tinyurl.com/atheycreekband. Will include our performance calendar and much of the information you are reading in this handbook for future reference. Jot it down!

BAND EXPECTATIONS & GRADING

How is a Band Student Graded?

🎵 Progress on your instrument

Students will be setting their own goals with teacher guidance and self-reflecting on their progress on their instrument, along with demonstrating to the teacher. In general, with a special skill like learning a musical instrument, a practice commitment of 20-30 minutes a day with a few days of rest is expected. The best way to do this is to set a routine that will allow for at least this much practice. In class, we will go over more specifically how to meet students' individual goals with their instrument and make it work with other outside of school commitments.

- Parents, please help by keeping an ear out for regular practice, and an eye on your email and your student's Google Classroom. Students will make reflections on progress for you to see regularly.

🎵 Music Literacy

Notes, rhythms, lots of fun new information will be covered and quizzed in class from time to time.

🎵 Performances

Concert performances (usually about an hour long, 2-3 times a year in the evening) are very important for everyone to plan on attending. A performance group needs all its players! The concert is a culmination of many important graded parts (contribution to the group, hearing and adjustment in a live setting, being an audience to other groups, and of course...the actual performance of music!) These can individually be made up through (extensive) make-up work, but being able to attend all concerts unless an emergency arises is the best case scenario for all band members. Please request make-up work **at least 2 weeks in advance** to give ample time for completion and to prepare the group to cover parts for absent members - emergency circumstances only please.

In general, **very high grades** in a band class are **super easy** if students:

- Bring instruments and music to class every day
- Take home their instrument to practice
- Have a pencil on their music stand
- Bring their best effort to class
- Show up to concerts
- Keep a positive attitude when challenges come up
- Treat others with respect

I believe in every student's ability to be a super valuable band member and contribute to some amazing performances this year!

We've put the rest of our important band info (supplies, events, policies and more) online!

In addition to returning this contract (on the last page), please read the remainder of the online handbook and do the Google Classroom scavenger hunt electronically for the first graded assignment for band. Knowing this information ASAP is important! Students, log in to your band Google Classroom with a parent (information on first page of this document) and look for two things: Handbook Part 2 and Scavenger Hunt). Enjoy your first easy A in band!

STUDENT AND PARENT BAND CONTRACT (Tear off and return this page)

Student's Name _____ Grade _____ Class Period _____ Instrument (if known) _____

Student T-Shirt Size (adult size assumed unless otherwise noted) _____

Parents' Name(s) _____

Phone Numbers: *Home/Cell* _____ *Work* _____

Parent email address: _____ (please check your email regularly)

Both the student and parent agree to:

- Read every page of the handbook (including the part linked electronically).
- Collect all the materials needed for band, including concert uniform
- Keep all materials, including instrument and music, in excellent condition
- Arrange transportation for all concerts and events
- Make time for practice at home
- Follow all classroom expectations
- **Be part of a year-long band class**

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ **PARENT SIGNATURE:** _____

****Parents, if you are available to help with any of the following duties, please indicate below so we can contact you when needed:***

- ___ Chaperone for field trips
- ___ Assist at concerts (supervision, setup, etc)
- ___ Make phone calls
- ___ Organization (uniforms, materials, etc.)
- ___ Distribute band information to primary school: _____
- ___ Other: _____

Times available: (circle) Mornings Afternoons Evenings/Weekends

Permission for School Field Trips

In order for my child, a minor, to take part in and receive the advantages of a program planned and sponsored by West Linn-Wilsonville School District, Clackamas County, Oregon, I hereby give permission for them to participate in any or all of the trips included in the band program at Athey Creek Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year as outlined in this handbook.

I further acknowledge that transportation will be provided by the School District as is approved by the Superintendent.

I grant permission for my child to be photographed and video/audio taped in conjunction with these activities/performances.

I authorize West Linn-Wilsonville School District and its employees to secure the services of a physician or hospital in the event of an accident or illness, and I assume responsibility for the expenses and will provide repayment of these costs.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Emergency phone Emergency Phone #2 (optional)

___ I do NOT want pictures of my student on the band Instagram

Is there anything about your child that you would like Mr. Uldall to know?
Please attach a note or email!

DUE SEPT 6