

Glenwood Middle School Band Handbook

2026-2027



Introduction

Welcome to the band program! We are excited for another great year of musical opportunities and experiences. The purpose of this handbook is to compile in one location all of the necessary information about the Glenwood Middle School Band needed by the students and parents to become fully functional members of that organization. There is a lot of information we need to communicate to make sure the year runs smoothly, so please read through and keep this handbook accessible. Don't hesitate to contact a director with any questions you may have. The [Glenwood Bands Website](#) also has a calendar that will be updated throughout the year. Communications will primarily take place through email, so please ensure that your email is listed accurately on PowerSchool and check it regularly for updates.

Directors:

Mr. Hart - 6th Grade Trumpets/Flutes/Percussion, Jazz Band "Gold":
hartpau@glenwoodschoools.org

Mrs. Griffen - 7th Grade, 6th Grade Clarinets/Saxophones/Low Brass, Jazz Band "Black": griffenelsa@glenwoodschoools.org

Mr. Clark - 8th Grade, 6th Grade Percussion, High School:
clarkda@glenwoodschoools.org

General Goals – Instrumental Music

Students are encouraged to:

- Demonstrate, to the extent of their capacity, intense involvement in and response to personal aesthetic experience in music.
- Think, feel and act creatively with musical materials.
- Develop manipulative and organizational skills in band music and performance, appropriate to their abilities.
- Develop a set of values for living as productive/successful individuals.

Course Description: Band (Grades 6-8)

All Year

Prerequisite: Prior band experience – Instructor permission

Fees: miscellaneous instrument supplies, \$15.00 percussion fee per quarter, \$50.00 horn rental fee per quarter if applicable.

The Glenwood Middle School Band Department is divided into four basic areas:

- Concert Band
- Lessons

- Jazz Band
- Marching Band

** 6th Grade students do not participate in marching band or the lesson program. 6th Grade Students who play saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, or percussion will have the opportunity to sign up for jazz band in November.*

Information on Reeds

All students playing woodwind instruments (clarinet, saxophone) are required to supply their own reeds throughout the year. Reeds can be ordered through Dietze Music or Schmitt Music, as both of these stores deliver directly to the Middle School. A few brands to look for are Rico, Juno, D'Addario, or Van Doren, strength # 2 for 6th grade and strength #2.5-3 for 7th/8th. **Please avoid large packs of reeds from other brands that look like great deals on Amazon...if it is not one of the listed brands they are usually of very poor quality**, and your student will end up going through them much more quickly. Buying quality reeds will ensure that your student is set up for success while playing their instrument. Please reach out to a director with any questions.

Performance Requirements

All areas except jazz band are required of each student. Quarter and semester grades are based on students' participation in class and performances, learning and attitude. Performances in concerts and parades are held throughout the year in which the students are required to participate. Jazz band is an extracurricular activity that requires a fall audition for entrance into the group.

Expectations of Students

- Attend daily rehearsal and scheduled lessons.
- Come prepared for class with instruments, music, pencil, and any other materials that have been designated for the class.
- Practice as necessary outside of rehearsal time.
- Play instruments to the best of their ability, 100% of the time.
- Behave in an exemplary manner at all times.

All Glenwood Middle School discipline policies and conduct codes will be followed during all band activities. These will apply when the band is in school, in town, or out of town at a band performance.

Transportation

When we travel out of town for events, you may sign students out with a director afterward as long as your Transportation Form is on file with the office.

Glenwood Middle School Bands

CONCERT BAND/MARCHING BAND

The Concert/Marching Bands are the main training ensembles in the band department at Glenwood Middle School. They are open to all students who play wind and percussion instruments in grades 7th and 8th. Students who register for this course must perform in concert band and will learn some basic marching fundamentals. 6th, 7th and 8th grade bands meet every day. Students in these courses will be required to perform in both the winter and spring concerts. 7th and 8th grade students must be a part of this ensemble to be eligible for membership in honor bands.

JAZZ BAND

Jazz Band “Gold” is available for 7th/8th grade students through audition only and instrumentation is at the discretion of the director. Auditions for this group are held at the end of October and any time there are positions open in the jazz band. Two bands are formed over the course of the season. The first band is the competitive jazz band made up of an auditioned group of 7th and 8th grade students. This band travels to competitions outside of the school day and rehearses every Tuesday/Thursday morning from 7:00am to 8:00am in the middle school band room. For any questions about jazz “Gold”, please contact Mr. Hart: hartpau@glenwoodschools.org

The second band, Jazz Band “Black”, is made up of any other interested 7/8th band students, as well as select 6th grade students. 6th graders who show early ability and interest in jazz are chosen by directors and placed in the second jazz ensemble. This ensemble will rehearse Monday, Wednesday and some Friday mornings at 7:00am. This schedule can be adjusted by the director. For any questions about Jazz “Black”, please contact Mrs. Griffen: griffenelsa@glenwoodschools.org

All 7th/8th grade students must be members of the concert/marching band program in order to audition. Rules regarding attendance, tardiness to rehearsals and performances are established each year and followed closely.

7th/8th GRADE LESSONS

Lessons are a crucial part of a student’s music education. These lessons are held once a week in either private or like-instrument lessons. Lessons are held during 2nd-5th period and before and after school pending the director’s availability. Each lesson is twenty minutes long. Most lessons will take place during scheduled band time on a rotating basis to allow all students to work with a director. Lessons give the director an opportunity to work with students on instrument specific issues. This gives students a more specific education about their instrument which increases their potential to improve in their instrumental performance.

AWARDS

The band has several awards to recognize its outstanding members. An outstanding 6th, 7th, and 8th grade instrumentalist is chosen each year, along with awards for participation in Southwest Iowa Honor Band, 8th Grade All-Iowa Band and Jazz Bands. Students who complete lesson books in lessons are also recognized throughout the year.

LESSON BOOKS

Lesson books are a required part of the band curriculum. At the beginning of each year all students should come to class with the appropriate grade level lesson book. These books can be found online or can be purchased from any of our local music companies, Schmitt Music, Dietze Music, or Rieman Music. We use these books as supplemental materials for teaching specific musical concepts. They are used in full band class and during lessons. The Glenwood band program uses the following beginning band books:

- 6th Grade Band – Standard of Excellence Book 1 (Red Book)
- 7th Grade Band – Standard of Excellence Book 2 (Blue Book)
- 8th Grade Band – Standard of Excellence Book 2 and 3 (Green Book)

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

The school maintains a small inventory of instruments for student use. The instruments will be checked out on an individual-need basis. **A rental fee per quarter will be charged for the use of school owned instruments. All percussion students will pay a quarterly fee for the use of school equipment. This fee goes toward the repair, maintenance and purchase of new percussion equipment that all percussion students will use throughout their time in the program.** The only cost to the student above the rental fee would be for consumable items (reeds, oil, etc...) or repair for damage due to carelessness or malicious actions on the part of the student.

- Percussion Instrument/Accessory Fee.....\$25.00/quarter
- Wind Instrument Fee.....\$50.00/quarter

FINES

Standard fines for damage and lost equipment will be as follows:

- Lost music.....Cost of sheet or book
- Lost uniform.....Cost of replacement
- Damaged uniform.....Cost of replacement
- Damaged instrument.....Cost of repair (this includes damage beyond normal wear and tear.)

GRADES

All semester and quarterly grades will be composed in the following manner: 6th-8th grade band students are graded on all performance outcomes. These are seasonal assessments that fit within the band curriculum.

EXAMPLE – BAND OUTCOME ASSESSMENT SCORESHEET

2nd Quarter Performance Outcome

NAME			
SOE Band Method	Proficient	Advanced	Score
Musicality	SOE Book 2 #98, #108	SOE Book 3 #22, #37	
Articulations			
Dynamics			
Rhythm			
Tempo Markings			
Tone			

Concert Literature	Proficient	Advanced	Score
Musicality			
Articulations			
Dynamics			
Rhythm			
Tempo Markings			
Tone			

Scales	Proficient	Advanced	Score
Bb	1 octave	Full Range	
Eb	1 octave	Full Range	
F	1 octave	Full Range	
Total			

7th/8th Grade Assessment Cycles:

Quarter 1: Outcome: FA_MSB8.6 - Marching Band Technique

Quarter 1: Outcome: FA_MSB8.1 - Memorization Tests

Quarter 2: Outcome: FA_MSB8.2 – Standard of Excellence/concert literature playing assessments

Quarter 3: Outcome: FA_MSB8.3- Standard of Excellence/concert literature playing assessments

Quarter 4: Outcome: FA_MSB8.4/.5 - Scale/Rudiment Assessments

6th Grade Assessment Cycles:

Quarter 1: Outcome: : FA_MSB6.1 – Instrument Fundamentals

Quarter 1: Outcome: FA_MSB6.2 – Fundamental Tone Production

Quarter 2: Outcome: FA_MSB6.5 – Musicality - Standard of Excellence playing assessments

Quarter 3: Outcome: FA_MSB6.3/.4 Musicality - Standard of Excellence playing assessments

Quarter 4: Outcome: FA_MSB6.4/.5/.6 – Rhythm/Scale/Rudiment Assessments

4 These Students:

- Demonstrate broad in-depth understanding of complex concepts and skills.
- Make abstract, insightful, complex connections among ideas beyond the obvious.
- Provide extensive evidence for inferences and justification of solutions.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge and skills effectively and independently by applying efficient, sophisticated strategies to solve complex problems.
- Communicate effectively and thoroughly.

3.5 These Students:

- Can extend their understanding by making meaningful, multiple connections among important ideas or concepts and provide supporting evidence for inferences and justification of solutions.
- Apply concepts and skills to solve problems using appropriate strategies.
- Communicate effectively

3 These Students:

- Demonstrate partial understanding of basic concepts and skills.
- Make simple or basic connections among ideas, providing limited supporting evidence for inferences and solutions.
- Apply concepts and skills to routine problem-solving situations
- Communicate in limited fashion.

2.5 These Students:

- Demonstrate a minimal understanding of rudimentary concepts and skills.
- Occasionally make obvious connections among ideas, providing minimal evidence or support for inferences and solutions.
- Have difficulty applying basic knowledge and skills.
- Communicate in an ineffective manner

DRESS CODE

A musician's appearance is representative of the quality of the performance. Our middle school band students are expected to dress appropriately for concerts and other public performances. Please avoid sweatpants and other athletic wear for these events.

Home Concerts

As mentioned above, students are expected to dress appropriately for concerts to create a professional look to our audience. This means **no jeans, sweatpants, or athletic wear.** Please refer to these guidelines:

Gentlemen: Dress slacks, shirt and tie. Dress shoes are suggested but not required.

Ladies: Dress pants/blouse or dress/skirt, (at least knee length), comfortable shoes (avoid heels that are difficult to walk in)

Marching Band

7th/8th only: Black pants (NO JEANS), black shoes and black socks are required for marching performances. The Band Parents will provide a marching band t-shirt that each student will get to keep. The marching band jackets are owned by the school, checked out by students, and returned at the end of each marching season.

Behavior

The success of your student is built on behavior. All behavior related grades can be found on their report card under employability skills. These skills are just as, if not more important than the musical grades that they receive in class. It is important to know that a band student's work ethic in class and their willingness to practice outside of class are the two most important aspects of a child's success in band. Students who do not have a working instrument, proper lesson book and pencil in class will quickly fall behind and become discouraged. Parents, students and directors must work together to ensure success for every band student! Because we are in rehearsal every day, we have the following expectations in place to ensure all students are able to learn in a productive and respectful environment:

- Listen and follow directions.
- No gum, candy, food or drink except water.
- Only talk/play at appropriate times.
- Move safely around the room and keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- Respect your classmates, teachers, and all equipment in the room.

Each day, students will start with three rehearsal fundamental points. Each time an expectation is not followed, one point will be deducted. If a student loses all three points, they will be asked to sit out from rehearsal and receive a red sheet in addition to an email or phone call home. If repeated loss of daily points occurs, a parent/director meeting will be scheduled to determine the next steps forward.

6th grade home practice time is not graded but is a critical component of a student's success in band. There is and always will be a direct correlation between practicing at home and success in the classroom. Keeping a weekly practice log that is signed by parents ensures communication between the student, parent and instructor and will help motivate student interest and success.

BAND CALENDAR

In the spring of each year, the school calendar for the next year is adopted. Please update your calendar to include these dates. In an effort to avoid conflicts, the band calendar is posted on the band website as soon as it has been approved. [BAND WEBSITE](#)

Important Dates

6th Grade:

Thursday, December 10th- MS Holiday Concert (All Students 6-8)

Tuesday, May 18th - Parade of Bands Concert (All Students 6-8)

7th/8th Grade:

Saturday, October 3- Clarinda Band Jamboree (Required for all 7th/8th)

Friday, October 16- Homecoming Parade Performance (Required for all 7th/8th)

Saturday, October 31st- SWIBA Honor Band Auditions (Morning event, select students only)

Friday, November 13th - SWIBA MS Honor Band Festival - Atlantic (Select students only)

Thursday, December 10- MS Holiday Concert (All Students 6-8)

Monday, February 15- District Jazz Festival (Jazz Students only)

Thursday, March 4 - Music in our Schools Concert (Required for all 7th/8th)

Tuesday, March 9th - Jazz Concert (All MS Jazz Students)

Saturday, March 6- Bluffs Jazz Festival (Jazz "Gold" Only)

Thursday, April 29 - Lewis Central Concert Band Festival (Required for all 7th/8th)

Tuesday, May 18 - Parade of Bands Concert (Required for all 6th/8th)

GLENWOOD MS Band Behavior Plan

This policy is in place to ensure a productive environment will occur in our classroom and that all of our students receive an equal opportunity to learn. The following set of rules will be enforced at all times:

1. Listen and follow directions.
2. Be prepared for class with all required materials (books, instrument, music, pencil, etc.)
3. No gum, candy, food or drink except water.
4. Only talk/play at appropriate times.
5. Move safely around the room and keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
6. Respect your classmates, teachers, and all equipment in the room.

***Rules of conduct will be followed in class and at all band events outside of class.**

Students start each day with three rehearsal points. Each time an expectation is not followed, one point will be lost. The consequences for losing all three points are as follows:

1. A minor referral will be issued as per the GMS behavior plan - the student will contact home and a lunch detention will be issued. A follow up email will be sent to parents/guardians by a director.
2. If a student receives two or more minor referrals in one week, an after school detention will be issued and parents will be notified. Three minor referrals = one major referral (as per GMS Behavior Plan)
3. Repeated referrals will result in a meeting with parents/guardians and directors to determine next steps.

PERFORMANCE AWARENESS: All required concerts and performances have been scheduled 1 year in advance and we expect that all members of the band are in attendance. Please locate this year's calendar on the band website to ensure that your child will be at all required performances. Please contact a director if your child will not be at a required event due to an emergency.

PLEASE ELECTRONICALLY SIGN OR PRINT AND RETURN THE
BOTTOM PORTION BY AUGUST 28

I, _____ have read the band handbook and performance
(parent/guardian) requirements, and understand the student discipline plan.

I, _____ have also read and understand the handbook and
(student)
discipline plan and will abide by the rules as clearly stated.