

# Alexander Graham MS Band Manual

2019-2020

[www.agmsband.com](http://www.agmsband.com)

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Keith Grush, Director

Robert Folk, Principal

## **Band**

### ***Objectives***

- To provide each student with a comprehensive instrumental education by teaching the skills and attitudes necessary to succeed as a musician. This will be accomplished through a selection of a wide variety of music, full implementation of the North Carolina Essential Standards, National Music Standards, and the goals of Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.
- To develop interested and discriminating listeners and provide opportunities to develop analyzation skills of individual performance by each student.
- To foster the development of essential personal skills for successful ensemble performance such as a strong work ethic, a commitment to excellence, personal pride and a respect for self and others. Each of these skills will directly affect the quality of an ensemble's musical performance.
- To provide each student with a worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet of expression and good social experiences.

*In the quest for excellence, two things cannot be hidden: hardwork, and the lack of it.*

### ***Class Offerings and Supplies***

Each band class is designed to develop student's musical abilities through written and playing activities that improve technique and personal skills. These skills are demonstrated by

performance on the instrument and through written music theory exercises. A curriculum map with covered competencies is available from the director upon request. Requirements for each class are listed below.

### 6th Grade Beginning Band

- *Provided for you this year:*
  - ½ inch three-ring binder with inside pockets, 3 section dividers (labeled: Notes, Handouts, Music), lined paper (in class notes section)
    - Replacement cost is \$5.00 if you need another one.
- Pencil (kept in pocket of binder) and (pencil pouch for flutes to house cleaning supplies)
- **Measures of Success Book 1** - available from local music stores
- Have an instrument in good repair each day with [cleaning materials](#) and reeds (as necessary).
- Perform with the band on [assigned concerts](#)

### 7th Grade Beginning Band

- *Provided for you this year:*
  - **Sound Innovation Book 1**
  - ½ inch three-ring binder with inside pockets, 3 section dividers (labeled: Notes, Handouts, Music), lined paper (in class notes section)
    - Replacement cost is \$5.00 if you need another one.
- Pencil (kept in pocket of binder) and (pencil pouch for flutes to house cleaning supplies)
- Have an instrument in good repair each day with [cleaning materials](#) and reeds (as necessary).

### 7th Grade Intermediate Band

- *Provided for you this year:*
  - ½ inch three-ring binder with inside pockets, 3 section dividers (labeled: Notes, Handouts, Music), lined paper (in class notes section)
    - Replacement cost is \$5.00 if you need another one.
- **Measures of Success Book 1** - available from local music stores
- Have an instrument in good repair each day with [cleaning materials](#) and reeds (as necessary).
- Perform with the band on [assigned concerts](#)

### 8th Grade Intermediate Band

- *Provided for you this year:*
  - ½ inch three-ring binder with inside pockets, 3 section dividers (labeled: Notes, Handouts, Music), lined paper (in class notes section)
    - Replacement cost is \$5.00 if you need another one.
- **NEW THIS YEAR - Measures of Success Book 2** - available from local music stores
- Have an instrument in good repair each day with [cleaning materials](#) and reeds (as necessary).

- Perform with the band on [assigned concerts](#)

## *Daily Class Procedures*

### **What to do in class**

- Come quietly into the room, be seated in assigned seat, take out band binder and pencil.
- Look at Smartboard for today's assignment, homework, and/or written warm up in your band binder or agenda.
- When directed, get any necessary materials and be seated with instrument (in its case) beneath, beside or behind your chair. Arrange music and written materials as listed on the board.
- When directed, assemble your instrument and do not play until instructed by the director.
- Following class instruction, wait for the signal from the director, then return your materials to the proper place and return to your seat until final dismissal by the director.
- Remain in your seat until dismissed. You may only leave when instructed.



### **When you have been absent**

- Bring a note from home explaining your absence and place it on the director's stand as you come in the room.
- Check the makeup folder for your class. It will contain any written assignments you may have missed. Check with someone in your section to obtain notes or written warm ups for your binder.
- Complete any missing assignments **within 5 days** after you return.

### **When your horn is in the shop**

- **ASK THE MUSIC DEALER FOR A LOANER INSTRUMENT.** If one is not available, keep your mouthpiece out of the case and **bring it with your binder to school.** AG sometimes has instruments to loan (this is not guaranteed)
- **Bring a note from home with the date the horn was taken and where it is being repaired.** Attach this note to your "rehearsal detective"
- If you do not have a mouthpiece and/or a loaner is not available then you must pick up a "rehearsal detective" from the self help board, complete during class and turned in at the end of class. Written work allows you to earn credit only if you have brought a note from home verifying repair. Without a note, written work will be done, but credit will only be restored after receipt of a note.
- **REPAIRS SHOULD NEVER TAKE MORE THAN 7 DAYS. CREDIT MAY BE LOST FOR DELAYS.** Please tell me if you need help dealing with the dealers in our area regarding repairs. Sometimes they will move faster if your director provides encouragement!



### When you forget your horn:

- Pick up a “rehearsal detective” from the self help board.
- This work is to be completed during class and turned in at the end of class.

### *Performance Procedures*

Performances are an extremely important part of the band activity. In order to present the best possible effort, these procedures will apply.

1. All students will report to the auditorium at the assigned time for warm up. Do not roam the building or campus.
2. Students will wear the **assigned performance attire**.
3. Students will sign in and enter the auditorium quietly. Do not talk, text, or make distracting sounds during the performance.
4. Students will remain for the **entire performance** not just their portion of the performance.
5. Performances usually occur at Myers Park High School auditorium. The AGMS band room will be locked at 4:15 on performance days – BE SURE to get your instrument prior to that time.

Students violating performance procedures may lose their privilege to perform with the AG Bulldog Bands.

### *Concert Attire:*

A sharp looking ensemble adds to the overall aesthetics of the performance, leaves a positive impression on the audience, and boosts the confidence and morale of the players. It is for these reasons that the AGMS Bands require a standard concert uniform. Students who do not wear the complete uniform to concerts will be seated and graded accordingly. Students who cannot perform due to injury are required to attend the concert in concert dress. AG Band maintains a small collection of clothes for those who may need assistance. Please contact Mrs. Fullagar prior to the concert date to access this resource. *Donations to this resource are always greatly appreciated.*

- **Top:** SOLID **Black** blouse with sleeves, collared shirt, or sweater
- **Bottoms:** **Black** dress pants (no jeans, jeggings, or tights)
- **Feet:** **Black** socks or **black** nylons, black dress shoes.

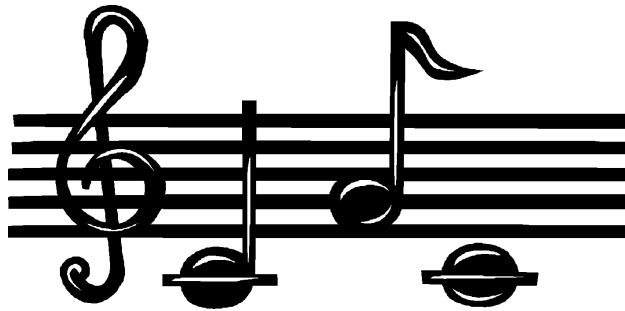
#### Optional **RED** accessories

- Young Ladies: Red scarves, red necklaces, red head bands, etc...
- Young Men: Red tie (Sorry, not as many choices)
- The band uniform is not a “costume.” It is designed to be subtle and understated in order to keep the focus on the music. Along with wearing a



clean, ironed, properly-altered uniform, here are a few important guidelines to help you dress for a concert:

- Any hair ornaments should be brown, black, or white. Long hair should be tied/pulled back so you can see the conductor and so the audience can see YOU!
- Footwear must be black dress shoes. Open toed, athletic, and/or backless shoes are not acceptable.
- Legs must be covered with black socks, black nylons or tights.
- Please do not wear perfume or cologne for concerts. Some of our musicians and audience members have allergies.
- Gum is never, ever part of our uniform.



### ***Performance Calendar***

Performances showcase all the skills that we have learned up until that point. They are the culmination of months of study. Participation is required as listed below.

**October 11th - 5-10pm** MPHS Middle School night for **7th and 8th graders**

- Students who attend will tailgate with the band (**picnic included**), get **free** admission to the football game, **march in with the HS band** and **play stand tunes** with the high school band

**October 24th-** **8th Grade band** performs with the HS Band (8th Grade **required** performance)

**December 17th** - Winter Concert with Alumni (6th, 7th and 8th grades **required** performance)

**February 20th-** Pre-MPA Concert (**Wind Ensemble required** performance)

**May 14th** - Spring Concert (6th, 7th and 8th grades **required** performance)

**May 15th** -Spring trip to Carowinds Music Festival for 7th and 8th grades



## ***Grades***

### **Formal Assessments (65%)**

Playing test, written tests, binder checks, participation

- Students will perform playing assignments each quarter. This is detailed in a following section. Written assignments will happen occasionally in class. Being prepared for class is key to being successful in band. Students must bring band binder with method book, pencil, cleaning supplies, and a working instrument each day in class to earn full participation points
  - *Note:* If you are well enough to be at school, you are expected to participate. If an emergency, such as a broken arm, etc. affects your ability to play; the work in class must be made up for credit when you are able to play.

### **Informal Assessments (35%):**

Home practice and concerts

- Concerts are mandatory and double weighted grades.
- Homework is at the discretion of the teacher and can include practice logs, research projects, and CANVAS assignments. Individual home practice is not optional. Instruments or stick bags left in the band storage rooms or in classrooms and lockers indicates zero practice and credit will not be earned.

## ***Pass Offs***

The only playing grades we will do this year will be tied into a system called pass offs. In this, each student will receive a list of exercises that they “pass off” for their grade, as well as many other things. All pass offs will need to be done outside of normal class time. Options for this include:

- At home or outside of school using Canvas
- Before school in the band room live for Mr. Grush if nothing else is happening at the time
- During Advisory time on Canvas or live for Mr. Grush
- After school live for Mr. Grush if nothing else is happening at the time

There are 3 categories of pass offs – Notes, Technique, and Performance. Students will need to do some from each category each quarter. 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will do 1 each quarter from each category, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will do 2 each quarter from each category, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will do 3 each quarter from each category.

For grading – each exercise will be 30% notes, 30% rhythm, and 40% tone and style. Percussion students will need to do exercises on snare drum and mallets for full credit where there are both options. If only doing one of the instruments, percussion students will need to do double the amount of exercises.

Also, pass offs will be an important part of class – the awards system

## ***Awards System***

Arguably the best band in the world is the US Marine Band, which is nicknamed “The President’s Own” A link to their Youtube channel is [here](#). We are going to pattern our award system for the year in honor of this group. All students will enter the year as a Private in the “Principal’s Own” Band. There are a couple of different ways to increase rank.

- Achieve a grade of 90% or higher on any 2 pass offs.
- Participate in any school sponsored extra groups or instrumental musical activities. Examples include Pep Band, Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, Marching Band, All County Band, All-District Band, or small ensembles performing in the community.

You will receive a sheet to help keep track of what rank you are.

## ***Determining Chairs***

In many instrumental groups, people try to get to be the highest “chair” that they can. The higher chair you, are the more prestigious it is seen to be. I have not been an advocate for this, as

everyone who participates in the group is important, and in many cases the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> parts are more important than 1<sup>st</sup> parts in pieces of music. However, within the grade level classes, we will keep track of what chair people are in their section. Chairs will be decided by what award level students are at currently. The 1<sup>st</sup> chair student will get 1<sup>st</sup> choice of what part they get to play, then the 2<sup>nd</sup> chair will get next, and continuing throughout each section.

## COMPUTER PROGRAMS AGMS BAND USES:

### Charms Music Office Assistant

A web-based administration program. It tracks band inventory, student purchases, budget, communication, fundraising on an individual basis.

- All students with parental help need to go to <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/plogin.asp>.
- The school code is **AGMSmusic** and the student password is their CMS ID number (the same number they use to log into any school computer)
- Students receive a grade for updating contact information for themselves **and** for their parents within Charms
- NEED HELP? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAvoR8CgCwg>



Update Info

**Canvas:** <https://cms.instructure.com>

Many classes at AG use this learning management tool to make assignments, give lessons, take written quizzes and much much more. Students will submit playing assignments via CANVAS.

### Extra Credit:

Extra credit is possible when you have forgotten your instrument or you scored “really” low on an assignment. While maintaining high standards is always expected, do not overburden the band teacher with assessment of extra credit to make a score of an “A” to an even higher “A.”

There are a few ways to receive extra credit in band:

#### Option 1

- Attend any performance in the community that includes band instruments. Church events that include instruments counts only if it is not part of the normal service. I will try to keep a list posted on the bulletin board with free events of note. Remember, musicals contain pit instruments and there are many civic bands in town with free performances.
- Once you attend the performance make sure to keep the program notes from it. *Write a brief description of what you saw, learned, or experienced and have your parents sign it, and return it to me for credit with the program attached.*
- You will then briefly describe to the class what you saw and learned from your experience.

#### Option 2

- Choose a composer from the composers list posted on the bulletin board in the band room or visit <http://www.classical.net/music/composer/masterindex.php> to find one.



- Research his/her life and music using references from the library and Internet. You will need to cite where your sources came from. Write a paper describing the characteristics of the composer's music as well as interesting facts from his life. The paper will need to be a minimum of one page single-spaced or two pages double-spaced. Plagiarism will not be accepted
- **Present your work to the class.**

#### Option 3

- Participate in all-district auditions and/or clinic, solo and ensemble festival, or seek and begin private lessons (note: only 1 EC grade will be given for each of these per quarter)

*"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit. "... Aristotle*

## Band Equipment and Facilities

*"What lies behind and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us"*  
*...Oliver Wendell Holmes*

### ***Personal Instruments***

All students are expected to obtain their own instrument unless playing a background/color instrument such as bassoon, tuba, oboe, bari sax, tenor sax, or french horn. Local music stores can be found via this link: <https://goo.gl/6PFXYO>

All students are responsible for the care of their personal instruments. We will spend a great deal of time on care and maintenance of your instrument at the beginning of the school year. I expect you to follow through with these habits as the year progresses.

Keep up with your own things and make sure they are stored in the proper place. When repairs are needed make sure you use a trained and reputable instrument repair person. Instruments left in the building will cause credit to be lost on the home practice grade. **The school insurance does not cover the loss of or damage to privately owned student property. Students who leave their instruments or stick bags in the building overnight, on weekends, or on holidays do so at their own risk!**

### ***Percussion Tidbits***

Percussion students provide their own mallets and sticks since most of your instruments are provided at school. **A practice pad and bell kit is required for home practice and initial class work.** All requirements are listed below. These are not luxuries, but standard equipment you will

use until you leave high school. The mallet bag insures that all equipment is kept by you and not left in the band room where it may be lost.

<u>Mallet/ Stick Requirement</u>	<u>Instrument used to play</u>
1 mallet bag	Used to protect sticks and mallets
1 pair Vic Firth SD-1 Sticks	Snare drum/ bright suspended cymbal
1 pair medium hard rubber mallets	Xylophone, concert bells
1 pair medium hard yarn mallets	Suspended cymbal, marimba
1 pair general timpani mallets	Timpani

### ***Wind Player Notes***

Students that play a wind instrument are expected to keep it clean and in good repair. All woodwind instruments should be wiped out each day and the reed removed from the mouthpiece and stored in a reed guard. Brass instruments should be taken apart and given a bath once a month to insure good health for you and the horn.

**REMEMBER: DIRTY INSTRUMENTS BREED GERMS AND MILDEW, THE SAME STUFF THAT GROWS IN A DIRTY BATHTUB WHEN YOU DON'T CLEAN THEM.**

As your abilities on your instrument expand, as in your second year, you are encouraged to consider the purchase of a step up mouthpiece. They cause a noticeable improvement in the quality of sound produced by the player and are an appealing option when compared to the purchase price of a new horn. **A step up or professional horn with a beginning mouthpiece will sound like a cheap horn. A beginning instrument will often sound like a higher-grade instrument when played with a step up mouthpiece. A cheap reed will make a new horn and good mouthpiece sound poor.** Please note the brand of reed and remember, cost and quality always go together where reeds are concerned. Cheap price = cheap quality always = poor sound. A complete list of recommended mouthpieces and reeds is listed in the appendix.

### ***School Owned Instruments***

Students that play a school owned instruments will be responsible for its care and well being. These instruments should **come to the director for repairs**. Any damage beyond normal use will be the responsibility of the student. Please treat these instruments with care. School owned

instruments are generally the large, background instruments and are very expensive to replace. They must be taken care of well.

### ***Band Room***

The band room at Alexander Graham Middle School must be kept clean. Use the trashcans and never bring food, drinks, candy or chewing gum into the room. These items don't mix well with instruments and cause substantial damage to furniture and equipment. When you eat before you play, the sugar in these things does the same damage to your horn that it does to your teeth.

### ***Storage Areas***

Every instrument and grade level has an assigned portion of our storage areas to use. Store things correctly and stay out of areas that do not pertain to you. Do not linger in the storage areas, they are not big enough to handle current traffic and must be cleared quickly. **If it is not yours do not touch it!**

### **For Parents Only**

You are a vitally important part of your child's musical experience and I value your input. Please feel free to share with me any information that might help me to better understand your child and provide for a better education. Band provides a great forum for families to interact in years when young people are sometimes uncomfortable about their parents' presence at school. As a band parent, you have a wonderful opportunity to be involved with your child through the end of high school. Here are some ways you can add to the band experience at this level.

First of all, help them schedule a regular time and quiet place to practice each day. Make sure it is consistent. Do not allow younger family members to interrupt or play with the instrument. That should be something special, to be handled by this student only. Treat practice for what it is; another assignment that must be completed before social activities. Listen to them practice and offer frequent encouragement and praise.

If you need to get in touch with me, email is best:

[keithd.grush@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:keithd.grush@cms.k12.nc.us)

[www.agmsband.com](http://www.agmsband.com)

Or call **980-343-5810**

Follow us:



### ***Things to do:***

Encourage them to play for family and friends

Offer lots of praise

Expose your child to a wide variety of concerts and recitals

Encourage them to talk about their lessons

If possible, arrange for a private teacher to supplement the class activity

Make sure the instrument is in good repair

Help them to build a personal library with a wide variety of musical styles

Encourage them to perform with church or community group

### ***Things Not to do:***

Don't use practice as a punishment

Don't insist they play for others if they are uncomfortable

Don't ridicule or make fun of mistakes

Don't apologize in front of friends for a weak performances

Don't start your child on an instrument that is in poor condition and doesn't play well

Don't expect rapid progress in the beginning

Don't treat practice as "noise" you must endure, no matter what you may think.

Your child needs to feel their efforts are valuable and they you support them.

Don't make them play outside where you cannot hear.

*"Two can accomplish twice as much as one, for the results can be much better. If one falls, the other pulls him up; but if a man falls when he is alone, he's in trouble. " Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, TLB*

### ***Private Teachers and Lessons***

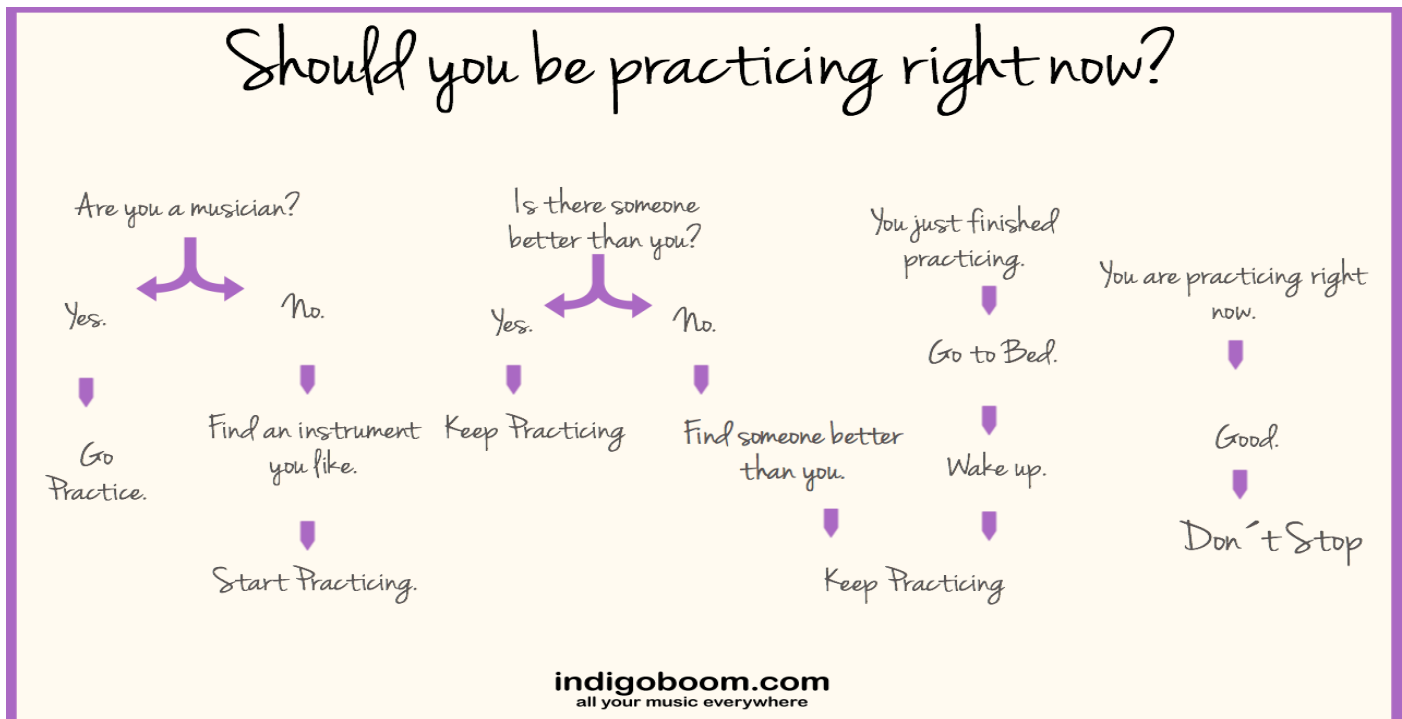
A good private teacher is perhaps one of the most valuable investments a parent can make for their child. Band Directors are trained in the instruction of every instrument; but their knowledge cannot compare to that of a professional who makes his or her living playing only one instrument. Private teachers are excellent for the serious student who wishes to improve or for the average student that is having isolated problems which require the knowledge and skills of a specialist. Please call, email or click [this link](#) if you would like assistance in finding a private teacher. I will be happy to help.



## How to Practice

Home practice is an extremely important part of your success in a band class. Without it, you will never be able to play well. Below are some suggestions for how to get results from your practice time. It will make a difference!

1. Practice in the same place every day. Stay away from distractions, like television and friends (unless your friend is practicing with you).
2. Begin with long tones. (Remington exercises) Concentrate on producing a pleasing sound. Use a mirror to check your hand position, embouchure and posture.
3. Spend time on scales. Practice them slowly and then work for speed.
4. Work out of your method book each day. Try to stay several lines ahead of the class. Work for accuracy and be sure to play everything on the page.
5. Practice your music. Work on the parts that you cannot play. Practice them slowly at first and then increase the speed. Work a measure at a time. Once you are able to play a measure five times without a mistake, then you should move on. Pay careful attention to details: correct fingerings, notes, rhythms, key signatures and accidentals, signs, symbols, dynamics and articulations.
6. Finally, play something just for fun



*"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work"*  
....Thomas Edison



### ***Enrichment Activities***

All students are eligible to participate in the following enrichment activities outside of class. Each activity brings extra credit and at state activities, recognition from the North Carolina Bandmasters Association.

**Pep Band and Jazz Band** - Offered in spring and fall respectively before school

**Wind Ensemble** - This is a new group for this year. Students will be invited to participate in this group that will practice before school, and

represent AGMS at various events during the year, including the NC sponsored assessment. All of the rehearsals will be on performing music as a group, while classes during the day will be split between performances and fundamentals.

### **CMS Honor Band (All-County)**

Each fall, CMS host a honor band for nominated students. These students have shown themselves to be leaders in their classes and on their instruments.

### **District Honor Band (All-District)**

Each January, students from the South Central District (a nine county area including Mecklenburg County) audition for a place in the South Central All District Band. Students memorize scales, prepare a solo and sight read material provided by the judges. Selected students attend a two-day clinic the last weekend in January culminating with a concert for the public on the final afternoon. Auditions are held at Porter Ridge High School in Indian Trail. Each attending student receives a medal from the North Carolina Bandmasters Association. Details can be found at [www.SCDBA.net](http://www.SCDBA.net).

### **North Carolina Honors Band (All-State)**

Students selected to the highest chairs in the All District Band are eligible to audition for the North Carolina Honors Band. This band contains the best student musicians from the six districts in the state. The requirements are the same as for the district audition. The audition in early March and the clinic is the first weekend of May. All participants receive medals.

### **Solo and Ensemble Festival**

All students may participate in the district solo and ensemble festival held in May. Students prepare a solo, duet, trio or other ensemble to be performed for a rating. All students receive a certificate from the state Bandmasters and those receiving a Superior are eligible for medals. This event is usually held at the start of May.

## Appendix

### Instrument *Brand*, Accessories, Mouthpiece & Reed Recommendations:

<u><b>Instrument (and Brand)</b></u>	<u><b>Accessories</b></u> - Available at local music stores	
Flute ( <i>Gemeinhardt, Jupiter, Yamaha, or Pearl</i> )	Polishing cloth, cleaning rod, swab (with drop-string is best)	
Oboe	Polishing cloth, swab, reeds (med soft), reed case	
Bassoon	Polishing cloth, swab, reeds (med soft), reed case	
Clarinet ( <i>Buffet, Jupiter, or Yamaha</i> )	Polishing cloth, swab, cork grease, reeds (size 3), reed case	
Saxophone ( <i>Yamaha, Jupiter</i> )	Polishing cloth, swab, cork grease, reeds (size 3 or 2.5), reed case	
French Horn	Polishing cloth, Rotary oil, slide grease, soft cloth or washrag	
Trumpet, Baritone, Euphonium, Tuba ( <i>Bach, Conn, Getzen, King, or Yamaha</i> )	Polishing cloth, Valve oil, slide grease, soft cloth or washrag	
Trombone( <i>Bach, Conn., King, or Yamaha</i> )	Polishing cloth, slide oil or grease, small spray bottle for water, soft cloth or washrag	
<u><b>Instrument</b></u>	<u><b>Suggested Mouthpiece for 7th and 8th Grades</b></u>	<u><b>Suggested Reeds for all grade levels</b></u>
Clarinet (bass and soprano)	Vandoren B-45 w/ Rovner ligature	Vandoren, Zonda, Mitchell Lure
Saxophone (alto, tenor, bari)	Selmer S-80 C star w/ Rovner ligature	Vandoren, Hemke, Mitchell Lure
Trumpet	Bach 5C or Benge 5C	
French Horn	Conn H2 or Farkas MDC	
Baritone	Bach 6 1/2 AL	
Trombone	Bach 6 1/2 AL or Bach 11	
Tuba	Bach 18	

## Advocacy

Keeping the Arts as a viable part of your child's education is an ongoing process. Below you will find links to websites that directly keep music in the forefront of school curriculum and administrations. Your support and involvement in these organizations can directly benefit your child's Arts education.:

- [www.MusicFriends.org](http://www.MusicFriends.org),
- [www.SupportMusic.com](http://www.SupportMusic.com),
- [www.vh1savethemusic.com](http://www.vh1savethemusic.com),
- [www.artsusa.org](http://www.artsusa.org), [www.amc.net](http://www.amc.net),
- [www.mhopus.org](http://www.mhopus.org)
- <http://advocacy.nafme.org/>
- <http://www.musicforall.org/who-we-are/advocacy>
- <http://www.childrensmusicworkshop.com/advocacy/>
- <http://www.amparents.org/>
- <http://www.musicparentsguide.com/2016/12/12/advocate-music-education-no-clue/>



## **Fun Appendix - How to Flunk Band!**

(it's harder than you think!)

- Always arrive late.
- Never take your seat quietly. Instead make a big production of slamming the door behind you, shouting out, "Sorry I'm late! I had to go to the john!" If at all possible drop your books, or worse yet your instrument, on the floor, too.
- Better yet, don't have your books with you.
- Never bring a pencil to class. Always borrow someone else's and forget to return it.
- Never bring paper. Let other people spend their money on stuff like that. Use their paper.
- Same for reeds!
- Use the paper you borrow to write a note. After you finish make a big deal about passing - or better yet, throwing it - across the room to someone. Disturb as many people as possible.
- Never, EVER do your homework or practice your instrument. Your teacher will admire your consistency.
- Lose you brand new band method book the first day of school. This will enable you to never learn the basics of band and, therefore never have to work.
- Draw as much attention to yourself as possible. Make funny remarks. Start arguments. Be loud. Contradict the teacher.
- Daydream a lot.
- Say, "This is boring!" loudly every five minutes or so, especially if it is quiet in the room.
- After the teacher says "Turn to page 26", say "What page?"
- Turn in all your assignments late. Better yet, never turn them in at all.
- Never show concern about your grade until the last day of the grading period. Then see if the teacher has extra credit you can do to make up all 42 missing assignments.
- If you have a report copy it word for word from the Internet.
- Last but MOST IMPORTANT, STOP TRYING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

*There are only two creatures of any value on this earth; those with a commitment, and those that demand one of others."... John Adams*