8th Grade Band

Concert Dates

Winter Concert: Thursday, December 3rd, 2026

Spring Concert:

Jazz Band Only Concert: Monday in April - Date TBA

Concert Attire

Students wear all black concert attire. Students may choose either a dress shirt, blouse, or sweater for their top, and may choose either black dress slacks or a skirt for their bottom. Students should wear black dress shoes with black socks/stockings.

Course Description

8th grade band is designed to provide students with a comprehensive music education experience through the study and performance of band repertoire. Students will develop skills in instrumental technique, music theory, sight-reading, and ensemble playing. This course aims to foster a love and appreciation for music while building teamwork, discipline, and self-expression.

Course Objectives and Standards

- Develop proficiency in playing a wind or percussion instrument
- Build a foundation in music theory and sight-reading
- Expand knowledge of musical styles and genres
- Cultivate teamwork and communication skills through ensemble playing
- Enhance critical listening and musical interpretation abilities
- Build confidence and self-expression through public performances

Our goal in the Orono Band Program is to meet the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in Arts Education . Below is a list of the standards we cover throughout grades 7 and 8. The words in **bold** are the main strands of the MN State Music standards.

Students will be able to:

1. **Perform** on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Read and notate music.
3. Listen to, analyze, and **respond** to music and music performances.
4.. Identify and describe how music **connects** individuals and societies to history, culture, and community.
5. **Create** and compose within specific guidelines.

Books, Instrument, & Supplies for Band

Students need the following books for class. Local music stores stock these materials (Schmitt Music, Groth Music).

8th Grade: Making Music Matter, book 2

Students are responsible for providing their own instrumental supplies and accessories as needed for band class during the year. This includes reeds for woodwind players, valve oil and slide grease for brass players, and a stick bag for percussionists. Percussionists must have a pair of snare drum sticks and a pair of plastic or rubber mallets with them for daily rehearsals.

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Flute: cleaning rod, Silk Flute Swab

Clarinet: Mouthpiece cap, Ligature, 4-#2.5-3 Vandoren Blue Box reeds, Plastic Reed Guard for 4 reeds, silk or microfiber swab, and cork grease

Saxophone: Mouthpiece cap, Ligature, 4-#2.5-3 Vandoren Blue Box reeds, plastic reed guard for 4 reeds, cork grease, silk or microfiber swab, neck strap

Trumpet: Valve oil, Tuning slide grease

French Horn: Rotor Oil, Tuning slide grease

Trombone: Slide-O-Mix Lubricant (black cap), Tuning slide grease

Baritone: Valve Oil, Tuning slide grease

Tuba: Valve Oil, Tuning Slide

Percussion: Stick Bag, Hard Mallets (Innovative Percussion F9-Xylophone), Drum Sticks (Vic Firth SD1 sticks). *Mallets and sticks in parentheses are a suggestion.*

School Rental Instruments

The annual rental fee covers the costs for repairing and maintaining the instruments rented to students among other incidental costs. Orono Public School Instrument Rental Contract will be provided to students renting a school-owned instrument, and rental fees will be collected via FeePay.

Tuba/Baritone/French Horn/Bass Clarinet/Tenor Sax/Bari Sax - 8th Grade band students must purchase their own personal mouthpiece if they play one of the above listed instruments.

Percussionists - An annual **$25** instrument fee for use of school equipment during rehearsals and performances. The fee supports maintenance costs and replacement of specialty mallets.

Care of Instruments

Any student using a school provided instrument is responsible for its continued care and proper maintenance. This will include any repairs needed due to negligence or abuse. All students sharing the same instrument during the school day, such as percussion, will be held equally responsible.

Practicing

It is *highly* encouraged for every band student to practice often outside of the school day. It is essential for the physical, intellectual, and emotional development that comes with playing an instrument. Consistent daily practice builds individual musical growth, which allows for a much higher level of contribution to the full band! *Any* amount of practice is beneficial, but **it is recommended that students practice for 30 minutes, five days a week**. The payoff is *incredible*!

Band Lockers/Instrument Identification

Please make sure that your instrument is clearly identifiable. We encourage students to use a luggage tag, or a similar label, that attaches to the case handle. Additionally, we *highly* recommend that parents keep a record of the instrument's make, model, and serial number. We will do our best to provide a locker space for all students in the band room. For security, we encourage students to take their instrument home every day, *especially* over weekends and long vacations. The band room doors are locked at the end of the day but are unlocked during the school day.

Private Teachers

We are fortunate to have many highly talented musicians in the area who are excellent private lesson instructors. Private teachers can offer specific one-on-one instruction catered to the individual needs of a student. Make sure that the private instructor you choose is a master on the particular instrument your child studies. We find that the student benefits most from this type of private lesson experience. Please note that tuition for private lessons (fee paid to instructors) are tax deductible. Email your band teacher for private teacher suggestions for your instrument.

Jazz Band

Jazz bands will begin in early October. All students will have an opportunity to prepare an audition which will be distributed during band class. Auditions will be held at the end of September.

7/8 Jazz band utilizes the extended jazz band instrumentation which includes all instruments of the band including electric guitar, electric or keyboard bass, piano, drum set, and other percussion. Students must be enrolled in grade level band to be eligible for jazz band.

The Jazz Band rehearses on Tuesdays after school from 2:55-3:40pm. The Jazz Band will have a “jazz only” concert at the OMS auditorium on Monday, April 20th at 6pm - a shared concert with the HS Jazz Band.

Honor Bands

Throughout the year, honor band opportunities may become available to Orono MS Band students. Honor bands are enrichment opportunities intended for advanced students who seek a challenging and rewarding musical experience. Admittance to honor bands may be by audition or by nomination. Auditions will require students to make recordings to be submitted. Nominations will be made by the band teacher, and are based upon playing ability, classroom attitude and behavior. Admittance to an honor band is never a guarantee. We highly encourage any interested student to pursue these opportunities as they become available!

Grading

Assessments are tied to the music standards, and students will be evaluated on their mastery of these standards. Assessments will include: playing assignments, music theory/rhythm worksheets, concerts and performances, daily rehearsal rubric, and formal assessments such as in-class work, quizzes and tests.

7th & 8th Grade Band Grade Book Outline

Grade Categories & Weights

- Formative Assessments (10% of final grade)
  - Weekly Band Rehearsal Grade: 40 points per week
  - Weekly Band Lesson Grade: 20 points per week
- Summative Assessments (90% of final grade)
  - 1 Note Name Quiz per quarter (~20 points each)
  - 2-3 Lesson Playing Tests per quarter (~30 points each)
  - 1 Concert Music Test in Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 (~40 points each)
  - 2-3 Written/Theory Assignments per quarter (~20 points each)

Typical Quarter Points Setup:

Formative Assessments (~460 points/quarter)

Assessment	**Frequency (per quarter)**	**Points each**	**Total Points**
Band Rehearsal	9 weeks	40	360
Band Lesson	5 to 6 lessons (schedule dependant)	20	100
Formative Total			460

Summative Assessments (~120-210 points/quarter)

Assessment	**Frequency (per quarter)**	**Points each**	**Total Points (approx.)**
Note Name Quiz	1	20	20
Playing Tests	2-3	30	60-90
Concert Music Test	0-1 (Q2/Q4 only)	40	0 or 40
Written Assignments	2-3	20	40-60
Summative Total			120-210