

# The Andover Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Handbook



## Home of the Trojans

Band Directors ó Mr. Findley, Mr. Lorenson, Mr. Linville

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## **PHILOSOPHY**

In alignment with the philosophy of the Andover School district, all students who have the desire are given the opportunity to participate in the band program to learn and to progress musically as far as his/her abilities permit. If he/she accepts the challenge, demonstrates the necessary self-discipline, and fulfills his/her responsibility towards the band, he/she will succeed.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Be regular in attendance to rehearsal and performances and account for all absences
2. Strive to improve every day.
3. Be responsible for your actions.
4. Show respect to those in authority and to your peers.
5. Follow all classroom rules, school regulations, and all travel instructions issued for trips.
6. Make independent practice a part of your daily routine.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC STAFF**

1. Provide students with a proper learning environment and other equipment necessary to develop the student's musical ability, citizenship, and leadership skills.
2. Plan the curriculum and assignments that encourage daily progress of the entire organization.
3. Provide the class with a full musical education through rehearsal, performances, teaching, testing, and listening.
4. Supervise the students in class and on school sponsored activities. Each student will receive information and plans for a trip, type of dress and a complete schedule.
5. Inform the students as far in advance as possible of rehearsals and performance in order that conflicts may be avoided.
6. Assess and evaluate the progress of each member on their instrument and their musical education.

## **UNIFORM CODE**

When in uniform, you are a representative of your community and your school therefore; your actions should reflect positively yourself, your peers, your teachers, and Andover Middle School. Uniforms will be worn at all public performances (unless instructed otherwise). When in uniform, remain in complete uniform unless you are instructed otherwise.

Middle School Uniform Requirements:

1. AMS Band Polo Shirt (purchased through school).
2. Khaki pants.
3. Light colored shoes for parade marching
4. Dark colored shoes for concerts
- 5.

## **INSTRUMENTS**

It is the responsibility of the student to keep his/her instrument in proper playing condition. This is true for both school owned and privately owned instruments. If you check out a school instrument, it is your responsibility to take care of the instrument maintenance while in your care. The school has purchased the instrument to save you a major expense. It is your obligation to take care of the instrument. Allow no one else but yourself to play the instrument. If the instrument is damaged while checked-out to you, it is your responsibility to repair the damage and assume the cost of the repair. Any major damage should be first reported to a director before taken to a repair facility.

Students who have their own instruments may consider purchasing a better quality instrument as they progress. An inexpensive or beginner instrument may not meet the demands of an advanced player. It is frustrating to perform at a higher level than does your instrument.

With proper care, a top line instrument can last a person for the rest of their life. If you have questions on this, a director will be happy to visit with you.

Students must have their instrument at school each day. It is the responsibility of the student to fulfill this obligation. If an instrument is being repaired, please have a signed note from a parent.

Storage compartments are available and instruments are stored by like instruments. If you leave your instrument at school, keep in mind that it is still your responsibility and you leave it at your own risk. The directors do not live at school to watch your instruments at night. It would be advisable to take your instrument home with you each day.

## **GUIDELINES FOR REHEARSALS**

1. Bring your instrument, pencil, method book, music, and all necessary equipment to rehearsal.
2. Be in place, ready to rehearse, before the appointed time.
3. Follow classroom rules.

## **METHOD BOOK**

All students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade are required to provide their own copy of Essential Elements 2000 Book 2.

## **MUSIC**

Music costs the school a great deal of money and gets more expensive each year. It is your responsibility to keep the music in good condition and return it in as good a condition as when it was given to you. You are provided a music cabinet and music folders in which to keep your music. Please use the items to help keep your music from disappearing or getting torn.

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

Every band member would benefit greatly by taking private lessons. A list of qualified instructors is available through the band office. When selecting a private instructor, it is important to have a teacher who specializes in your particular family of instruments.

## **CHANGING INSTRUMENTS**

Some students may be asked by a director to switch to an instrument which the band is lacking such as French Horn, Bassoon, Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Euphonium, or Tuba. The student may choose to change to the requested instrument or remain on their current instrument. Switching instruments will ONLY be allowed with director approval.

## GRADING POLICY

Each student's grade will be based on total points per nine weeks. Points will be earned through daily class participation (30%), assessments (40%), homework (10%), and required public performances (20%).

There are three reasons that will allow a student to be excused for a required performance (no make-up required).

1. Student illness.
2. Death of family member.
3. Emergency request by parent or guardian.

An unexcused absence from a performance may be made-up by completing a playing test (of the music performed at the concert) for the director. The playing test will be graded on the following sliding scale:

- 8 weeks prior notice, 100% of the points may be made-up.
- 6 weeks prior notice, 75% of the points may be made-up.
- 4 weeks prior notice, 50% of the points may be made-up.
- 2 weeks prior notice, 25% of the points may be made-up.
- No make-up will be allowed with less than two weeks notice.

## USE OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE

Use of or possession of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or drug paraphernalia will result in a referral for administrative discipline which may involve suspension from school and/or a student being dismissed permanently from the band program. If any such act occurs on an out-of-town or scheduled activity trip, parents will be contacted and required to immediately pick up the student. The police will be involved with regards to these concerns. Procedures will be followed according to Andover USD #385 Activity Participation policies set forth by the Administration. Members will be subject to disciplinary action if they commit any of the following violations:

1. Arrest and conviction for breaking the laws of Kansas.
2. Use of or possession of tobacco in any form.
3. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages at any time.
4. Use of marijuana or any illegal drugs at any time.
5. Abuse of prescription/non-prescription drugs at any time.

The Andover Instrumental Music Department has a zero tolerance policy towards substance abuse.

## TRANSPORTATION

1. Students are expected to ride on the school transportation provided when furnished. Any other form of transportation must be cleared by the Building Principal ***prior to the event***. Riding in private vehicles without permission can result in loss of travel privileges.
2. Students will only be allowed to ride home with their parents from an off campus function. Due to liability concerns, parents may not check out any student other than their own from a band function off campus. Any variation to this policy must be cleared in advance with the building principal.
3. All busses will leave promptly at the designated time. Please be early for all departure times.
4. Students are expected to obey the standard rules of conduct when on a school activity trip. Chaperones, bus drivers, and staff will be in supervision of students traveling with the band. Students are expected to respond promptly and appropriately to any instruction given by the adult in charge.
5. Students will be given an opportunity to select bus seating. Those seats become assigned and no student will change seats on an activity trip. At no time will a student ride a bus other than the one assigned unless one of the band directors deem it necessary.
6. All overnight trips will require a Student/Parent Contract.

7. A student traveling with the band that will require special medical attention or that must be on medication while traveling will need to have a written permission slip from their parents with the specific instructions with regard to the medication

## ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Each student who represents his/her school in any competitive activity must meet the rules of eligibility as established by the Andover Board of Education. These include but are not limited to:

1. A student must be in good standing. A student who is under penalty of suspension or whose character or conduct bring discredit to the school or to the student body as determined by the Administration, is not in good standing and is INELIGIBLE for a period of time as specified by the Administration.
2. A student must have passed five subjects of unit credit his/her previous semester of attendance and be currently enrolled in at least five subjects of unit weight.
3. A student is a bona fide student with regular attendance and good citizenship in class and in school.
4. A student's conduct and standards are satisfactory and do not bring discredit to themselves or their school. There will be an activity study hall to help students who are not eligible. This will be coordinated through the Activities Director.

## IMPORTANT DATES

September 27	GAD Parade	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup>
November 8	SCKMEA Honor Band	Select 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup>
November 15	Pioneer League Honor Band	Select 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup>
November 20	Fall Concert @ AHS	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup>
February 12	Winter Concert @ AHS	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , and 8 <sup>th</sup>
February 20	Friends University Jazz Festival*	Jazz band
April 22	Pioneer League Festival	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup>
April 29	Tri-State Music Festival*	6 <sup>th</sup>
May 1	Tri-State Music Festival*	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup>
May 14	Concert in the Park	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , and 8 <sup>th</sup>
TBA	Worlds of Fun Festival of Music*	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup>

\*Parent chaperones will be needed!!

**SCHOOL SPONSORED TRIP AND MEDICAL CONSENT FORM**

I hereby grant permission for my child to take a school sponsored bus trip for the Instrumental Music Department. Also, in the event of an emergency, the sponsor of the group has my permission to seek the nearest qualified medical assistance. I have read the ANDOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK, and will abide by the obligations and expectations mentioned in said manual.

**X**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**X**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student name (please print)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**