



# Middle School Band Handbook

2020-2021

Mr. Shepherd, Director

Dear parents and students:

This handbook contains all of the information for the middle school bands that each student is expected to know and understand. Please carefully read this over together. Keep this packet for your own reference. Thank you!

## **Band Expectations:**

### **RESPECT**

- Treat everyone the way you want to be treated
- Only touch or use your own belongings and equipment
- Raise your hand to talk

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

- Bring your instrument, iPad, music, and materials to class every day
- Only water is allowed in the band room
- Practice at home at least two hours every week
- Complete all SmartMusic assignments on time

### **INTEGRITY**

- Listen to directions the first time they are given
- Participate 100% and try your best at all times

### **LEADERSHIP**

- Be confident in your ability to play your instrument
- If you struggle with something, practice and ask for help

### **Procedure for starting class:**

Students are expected to be in the band room at the start of class, otherwise you are tardy. The passing period before band should allow ample time to get to the room and grab your instrument. As soon as students enter the room, you should grab your instrument and music. Go directly to your seat. Percussionists should be in their area. If you are not in your seat within one minute after the beginning of class, then you are tardy. Percussionists are expected to use this time for set-up as well. The white board at the front of the room will contain the order of songs or lessons that we will be covering that day. If a student is tardy to class, he/she must immediately give the director a pass or note explaining the tardy. He/she is then expected to quickly (without disrupting the rehearsal) get his/her instrument and music and start rehearsing with the rest of the band as soon as possible.

### **General rehearsal expectations:**

#### *Being prepared for class:*

Every rehearsal, students are expected to have their instruments, all of their music, a working pencil, iPad, stylus, and any personal equipment needed (i.e.: reeds, sticks, mallets, valve oil). The first offense for not being prepared will result in a warning. The next two offenses in the same grading period will result in loss of the daily participation points. Any added offenses after three, within the same grading period, will result in lunch detentions and discipline referrals.

#### *Podium Rule:*

General soft talking is ok at the beginning of class and during “down time” within the rehearsal. This is a privilege and will be monitored strictly by the director. When the director steps onto the podium, **all** talking and playing must cease immediately. This signals the band that it is time to rehearse. This technique is in place of the director raising his voice to gain the students’ attention. By the time the director raises his baton, there should be silence throughout the band. When the director steps off the podium, this is when soft talking may resume. (When the director puts down his baton, this is *not* the signal to start talking.)

#### *Rehearsing one section at a time:*

When the director is working with a section of the band, the rest of the band should be listening and following along in their parts. This helps the other sections know what else is going on during that passage of music and also helps transition from section to section so everyone knows where we are. This is not time to do homework from other classes! (At no time should materials from other classes be out during rehearsals.)

### **Procedure for ending class:**

The director will try to give students enough time at the end of the rehearsal to pack up their things before the class ends. This time does not start until the director specifically says so. All woodwind players should take off their reed and swab their instruments before putting them away, and all brass players should empty water keys on the provided puppy pee pad and push in all slides. Percussionists are expected to put back all of their instruments, mallets, etc., at the end of each rehearsal. Students are expected to put away all of their music, folders, and instruments in the appropriate places. There should be no trash, book bags, or personal belongings left in the band room after class. Failure to do any of these things will result in the same disciplinary action as “*Being prepared for class*” from above. We must keep the band room clean and treat it with respect!

## **Performances:**

There is a calendar of events online at [www.TritonCentralBands.com](http://www.TritonCentralBands.com) with all of the tentative dates of rehearsals and concerts for the middle school and high school bands. These dates should be put on personal calendars as things that cannot be missed. Other performances and rehearsals may be added throughout the year. It is expected that if a student makes a commitment to the band and a conflict arises, the student will pursue every possible alternative rather than miss an event. Performances are the reason why the band rehearses every day for such an extended period of time. **Attendance at all performances is required** and very important. Being absent for a performance hurts the entire band. Every person and instrument is vital to the whole group.

### *Marching Band:*

7-12 grade band members have the opportunity to participate in the Triton Central Marching Tigers. This group performs a half-time show for every home football game, as well as playing in the stands. TCMT also participates in parades and competitions. For football games and competitions, we will wear marching uniforms, long black socks, and marching shoes. Absolutely no eating is ever allowed while in uniform!

### *Pep Band:*

There will be one high school basketball game when all students in 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade advanced band will play with the high school pep band. This will be determined at a later date. This is a great experience for the students.

### *Jazz Band:*

Middle School Jazz Band is an optional, extra-curricular activity outside the school day for students in advanced band. This will not start until later in the fall. This will meet once or twice a week. The day and time have not yet been decided. Any instrument may be involved in middle school jazz band. More information will be given later in the fall.

### *Concerts:*

The beginning band will have a concert by itself in the Fall. There will be a Christmas concert in December, and a Spring concert in May. Concert dates will be released at a later time. Admission is free, however donations are accepted. This money helps support the band and choir programs, and is vital to our growth and success. Any donation is greatly appreciated!

### *ISSMA (Indiana State School Music Association):*

All band students will perform at ISSMA solo and ensemble once again this year on Saturday, January 30. Students may perform a solo with piano accompaniment or in a small ensemble of 3 or more like instruments. All middle school bands will also be attending ISSMA organizational contest in the spring. This is a chance for the bands to receive comments and critique from three judges. This will either be a Friday evening or Saturday (April 9 or 10). This is a very important performance as it helps the band program progress and succeed in the future. These are required for all band members. Parents are permitted (and encouraged) to attend these ISSMA events for free!

### *IBA (Indiana Bandmasters Association):*

There is an opportunity for excelling middle school band students to participate in the IBA All-Region Honor Band. This gives students from area middle schools the opportunity to play in a high quality large concert band. This will require extra time and effort to prepare. If you are interested, you must fill out an online application at [www.IndianaBandmasters.org](http://www.IndianaBandmasters.org). This information must be sent in by September 4.

### **Practice Time, SmartMusic, and Extra Credit:**

Each student is expected to individually practice at least 2 hours every calendar week on his/her main band instrument. We will use SmartMusic to monitor your progress. The only exception is for Fall Break, Christmas Break, and Spring Break, however SmartMusic assignments turned in for these weeks will count as extra credit. SmartMusic assignments will be posted one week in advance. You must submit an assignment every week by 11:59 pm on Sunday. These assignments may be submitted late for partial credit. Practice time cannot be “made-up.” There are other limited options for extra credit:

- *Prepare and play a solo (approved by the director) for the band-* 50 extra SmartMusic pts
- *Play in a worship team, or a solo, at church, or other venue-* 100 extra SmartMusic points per grading period
- *Honor Bands-* 100 extra SmartMusic points per ensemble
- *Attend a K-12/college instrumental concert (not Triton Central)-* 25 extra SmartMusic points
- *Attend any other concert (approved by the director)-* 10 extra SmartMusic points
- *Attend an instrumental conference or clinic-* 50 ex. SM points

**Note:** To obtain any of these extra credit assignments, fill out an “extra credit” form. A parent/guardian signature is required.

### **Written and Playing Tests:**

#### *Written tests:*

Occasionally throughout the grading period, there will be written tests on information covered in class and in homework assignments. All the information on these tests will be covered in one of those two ways. This could include musical terms and concepts, composers, music history, etc. There will be a question and answer time the day before each test to ensure preparedness for the test. Test dates will be announced far enough in advance so that absences before the tests should not conflict with being able to take the test on the given date. Multiple absences before the test may call for a postponed date for that particular student. This will be decided by the director on a case-by-case basis. Written tests will be graded based on correct answers. Answers must be legible. If the answer cannot be read, it will get marked wrong. If a student has an excused absence the day of the test, it can be taken for full-credit the next class period. If the absence is unexcused, students may still take the test for partial credit. There will also be note name tests throughout the year. These will be graded based on how well the student is progressing from test to test.

#### *Playing tests:*

Each grading period, there will be playing tests for each student. These will be over scales and repertoire covered during band class. Playing tests will be done using SmartMusic to help save class time. Playing tests will be graded on accuracy of pitch, rhythm, and tempo. These must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the due date of the test. Playing tests may be submitted late for partial credit.

## **Grading:**

The final grade for each grading period will be based on the following:

	<u>With Performances:</u>	<u>Without Performances:</u>
Participation	30%	40%
Performances	30%	0%
SmartMusic	20%	50%
Tests	20%	10%

### *Participation:*

This includes rehearsal attendance and daily participation points. Being tardy more than three times in a semester will result in discipline referrals and negatively affect the final grade. There are five participation points for every day of class. Not being prepared for class, being tardy, not listening to directions, and breaking any rules will all result in losing participation points.

### *Performances:*

**An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a 15% reduction of the final grade!** It is expected that if a student makes a commitment to the band and a conflict arises, the student will pursue every possible alternative rather than miss an event. If an unavoidable conflict arises, the student and parent/guardian must contact the director immediately at least two weeks before the performance.

### *SmartMusic:*

Each student is expected to individually practice at least 2 hours every calendar week on his/her main band instrument. The only exception is for Fall Break, Christmas Break, and Spring Break, however SmartMusic assignments turned in for these weeks will count as extra credit. SmartMusic assignments must be submitted each week by 11:59 pm on Sunday. There are other limited options for extra credit. (Refer to the *Practice Time, SmartMusic, and Extra Credit* section.)

### *Tests:*

All of the written tests and playing tests from each grading period will be averaged together for this category.

## **Grading Scale:**

99-100	A+
93-98	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
0-59	F

This scale will be used for all assignments, tests, and final grades.

### **Disciplinary Procedure:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense- Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense- Loss of Daily Participation Points and Contact Parent
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense- Lunch Detention and/or Discipline Referral and Contact Parent
- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense- Sent to Principal's office and Conference with Parents

Note: Not being prepared for class has its own procedure. (Refer to the *General rehearsal expectations* section for more details.) **Any use of profanity or vulgar comments will immediately result in detention.**

### **Required Materials:**

**All students must wear a face covering at all times unless they are actively playing a wind instrument.**

There are many required materials for band students. Some will be provided by the school, and some you will need to get on your own. If something is lost or broken, you will need to purchase a replacement. The school will provide a music folder. Students are responsible to purchase their own personal equipment needed for their instrument (i.e.: reeds, valve oil, sticks, mallets, etc.). Percussionists must have their own drum sticks, yarn mallets, and rubber mallets (These may be purchased from Paige's for a discount). Brass players may use school mutes, although it is recommended that you purchase your own. All wind players will be provided with a bell cover that must be on their instrument at all times during class. All students are required to purchase a method book (Measures of Success book 1 for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup> grade bands, book 2 for 8<sup>th</sup> grade band). Students are also required to have their school iPad, a stylus, and a working pencil at every rehearsal. All school owned materials must be turned in at the end of the school year. If it is damaged or lost, then the student is responsible for buying a replacement.

### **Instrument Rental:**

Students may rent instruments from the school based on availability and need. Students who use a school instrument must pay a rental fee. The cost is \$50 per semester, or \$100 per year. A rental agreement form must be filled out and payment should be made at the beginning of each semester. Students are responsible for taking care of these instruments and are responsible for any repairs not due to regular use.

### **Contact Information:**

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time.  
Email: [JShepherd@NWShelbySchools.org](mailto:JShepherd@NWShelbySchools.org)  
High School (morning): (317) 835-3000, ext. 1216  
Middle School (afternoon): (317) 835-3006, ext. 1216

**Find more information on our website: [www.TritonCentralBands.com](http://www.TritonCentralBands.com)**

# **Triton Central Middle School Band Calendar 2020-2021**

All band events can be found on our band website:

**[www.TritonCentralBands.com/Calendar](http://www.TritonCentralBands.com/Calendar)**