

# TULLAHOMA MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

## **Tullahoma Band Directors:**

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## **Administration:**

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Students and parents,

Welcome to the TMS Band. Membership in this organization is a serious commitment on many levels. You are very likely to have questions throughout the year. That is why we have assembled this handbook. So that every student and parent can be aware of the many ins and outs of the band program, please read this entire handbook carefully. Of special importance is the calendar of events for this school year. If there are any conflicts with our scheduled performances, please notify us NOW so that we can better plan for the group. If this handbook doesn't answer your questions, you can always call a director (454-2629). You can also email us through the Tullahoma Band Website, [www.tullahomabands.org](http://www.tullahomabands.org), or email us directly.

Sincerely,

**The Directors**

# Rehearsal Guidelines

In order to make the most efficient use of our rehearsal time, it is essential that we maintain a high level of discipline and order. The following are the rules for all band students:

## Expectations

- 1. Be Prompt:** Class will start immediately at the designated start time as communicated for each class. Items needed for rehearsal will be retrieved by the time class begins.
- 2. Be Prepared:** Practice your music PRIOR to rehearsal. Come to class with all necessary equipment and music (pencil, reeds, sticks, etc.). Be prepared to perform everyday.
- 3. Be Polite:** Respect all other members of the Band. When directors, instructors, or substitute teachers are working with the group, do not interrupt. Respect other teachers, staff, and peers at your school as well as parent volunteers who graciously help our organization. Follow first request from those in authority.

## Consequences

Unacceptable behavior is dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Possible consequences are:

- Warning
- Change of Seating
- Loss of playing time and Written Assignment
- Parent notification and conference
- Office referral
- Removal from Band

# Supplies

Every student is responsible for having the things they need for band. The band can only function at 100% when all its members are present and prepared. The specific needs for band are dependent on the instrument a student plays.

## **All Students Need:**

1" Black 3-ring Binder  
Sheet Protectors  
Pencil  
Flip Folder  
Lyre (if instrument accepts)

## **Brass Players Need:**

Valve Oil or Slide Lubricant  
Mutes (when required by the music)

## **Woodwind Players Need:**

Reeds (at least 3 working reeds) buying in bulk is cheaper  
Cork Grease  
Cleaning Swab

## **Percussionist Need:**

### **(minimum)**

Stick Bag  
Concert Sticks  
Rubber Mallets  
Yarn Mallets  
Timpani Mallets  
Practice Pad

## **Optional Equipment:**

Metronome, available as an app  
Tuner, available as an app  
Instrument Stand  
Polish Cloth

## **Concert Attendance**

Concert attendance is required and counts toward your performance grade. The TMS Band has two full-band concerts during the school year, one at the end of each semester. They are the culmination of everything we have learned during the semester and should be treated as a final exam. 100% attendance is crucial to the success of a performance. Every member of the group contributes. If a concert is missed due to unavoidable conflict or circumstance, it may be made-up by performing the music for a director. It is the student's responsibility to schedule a time to make-up the performance. All make-ups must be done before grades are due for the quarter. Any student that has not made-up the concert by the cut off for grades will receive a zero. A director should be notified as early as possible about a conflict with a performance so any necessary changes can be made.

## **Performance Attire and Etiquette**

Students are to dress appropriately for performances. Our Winter concert is a formal event and our appearance should reflect that. Button down shirt and slacks are preferred for boys. Girls should wear a dress or dress slacks/skirt and blouse. Any dress or skirt should be knee length or lower while sitting down. TMS dress code should be observed for all clothing. Blue jeans, shorts, and camouflage are not acceptable.

Other performances require the TMS Band shirt. Dress details for these performances will be based on weather and location.

Parents help set the tone for each performance. If you treat your child's performance with the respect it deserves it will mean even more for your child. Remember that there is a difference in how one behaves at a sporting event and how one behaves at a formal concert.

Every band student is encouraged to stay for the entire concert. This includes the performances by all grade levels, including high school. A large component of a musician's training is listening to other musicians play. You will see and hear a significant difference between the 6<sup>th</sup> grade beginning band, the middle school band, and the high school band. Students need to observe behaviors as well as techniques and musicianship.

## **Practice**

Band students are expected to practice at least 1 1/2 hours per week. Practice should be considered homework just as you would have in any other academic class. It is best to establish a regular routine. A good practice routine should consist of a warm-up (long-tones and scales), technical exercises out of a method book, and solo or concert music. At the very least, practice should include work on scales. If the director deems necessary, practice records may be required. NEVER let your child tell you that it is OK to leave an instrument at school. It is the least safe place for it and it guarantees that your child will not practice.

## **Braces and Dental Work**

It is very common for students to need braces or other corrective dental work in middle school. Braces can be a “speed-bump” for wind players, especially brass students. Students usually adjust fairly well to braces and are able to relearn how to play in time. Please be considerate of concerts and audition dates when scheduling serious dental or orthodontic work. Students will need at least a month to adjust to braces. If braces are a must, it is best to get them over the summer break or 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the school year. Additionally, please try not to schedule any adjustments the week of a performance or audition. This is beneficial to both the student and the ensemble.

## **Instrument Purchase**

Buying an instrument is a big step and should be done with caution. The rental phase should ideally last only about three months. After that time, it is advised that the rental be returned and an instrument be purchased. An extensive rental can be costly. It is important to buy an instrument that will allow for growth as a musician. Some instruments look very nice and appear to be a good bargain. Be very careful of deals that seem too good to be true. They probably are. When buying an instrument, please contact a band director for help. There are specific brands that can be recommended as “safe”. If it says “Band Director Approved”, it probably isn’t. We can work with any budget.

## **Instrument Maintenance**

In order for students to play their best, their instruments need to be kept in perfect working order. This requires minimum effort by the students. However, if not done, this can create numerous and costly problems. An instrument that remains unplayable will be treated the same as forgetting your instrument. This includes sticky valves, stuck tuning slides, crusty trombone slides, torn pads, etc. Major repairs will have to be sent to a repair shop. **Never attempt to fix your own instrument!** Musical instruments require special tools and skills to be repaired properly.

## **Grading**

Band is an academic class. Just like science, math, and reading, we take tests and have homework. It is not enough to show up everyday with your instrument and music. Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to learn. Grades are derived from the following criteria:

-Performance Grade (35%):

- The percentage of each individual component shifts depending on the number of performances in a nine week period.

-Rehearsal Readiness Grade (35%) including, but not limited to:

- Rehearsal Techniques
- Daily Materials Checks
- Binder Checks

-Music Assessments (30%):

- Completed either in class or at home

## **Off Campus**

The TMS Band performs at football games, parades, and concerts. Some of us will travel to All Mid-State Band auditions and performances. We will all be involved with Solo and Ensemble Festival. When not on our own campuses we expect our students to follow school rules. Students who fail to follow classroom rules will not be allowed to participate in off campus performances.

# Private Lessons

The Tullahoma Band Program has an incredible private lesson staff. We offer individual study on every instrument with someone who is a professional on that instrument. Any student who is serious about being a better musician should enroll in private lessons. Understand that private lessons do require a financial commitment. When we put you in the private lesson schedule, the instructor is setting aside time for you. If you forget or skip your lesson, the instructor has still spent time in your name and will be compensated for it. **Make sure you notify your instructor at least 24 hours in advance if you are going to miss a lesson.** This way we can try to fill your spot or make necessary schedule adjustments. This will also prevent you from being charged for a lesson you did not take.

# Parents

Regardless of your own level of musical knowledge or ability, you play a significant role in your child's success in this band program. Your support and encouragement will have a huge impact. Here are some ways you can help:

- Arrange a regular practice time and place.
- Help make practice time free of interruptions and distractions.
- Enthusiastically attend all band functions to show support.
- Expose your child to other forms of music by buying recordings and by attending concerts of all varieties.
- Help keep your child's instrument in good repair.

There are additionally many opportunities for you to volunteer your time. The Tullahoma Band Program could not do all of the things we do without the help of parents. We need parents to:

- Chaperone trips
- Manage or help with concessions
- Walk with the band during the Christmas Parade.
- Help transport equipment

Parents may additionally want to get involved in our booster club. The Tullahoma Band Booster Organization does not just support the high school band. We operate as one program. So, the money earned from concessions at the high school football games and various fundraisers benefit all band students in grades six through twelve. The Band Boosters meet regularly to discuss business. Please visit the band's online calendar to find meeting times. [www.tullahomabands.org](http://www.tullahomabands.org) You may also contact our Band Booster President, Mr. Howard Kirksey via email at [tullahomabandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:tullahomabandboosters@gmail.com) should you have any questions regarding our booster organization.

## Conferences

Due to the itinerant nature of our program, it is often impossible for us to be present at your child's school on the scheduled night of conferences. We will be glad to schedule a conference with you any time you have a concern. You may email us through the band website or leave a phone message for us at your child's school or at the THS band room.

## Football Games

Students are to be dropped off at the THS Football Stadium in time to be in the stands by 6:00 (tubas and percussion at Band Room by 5:30). While in the stands we do not eat and we only drink WATER. Students may ask to go to the restroom in pairs. Once the game reaches the third quarter we begin dismissal. Students may call or text parents during half time if you wish. **YOU BECOME RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR CHILD ONCE THE THIRD QUARTER STARTS.**

# **TMS Band Calendar 2021/2022**

- Aug. 9** 7th/8th Grade Meeting @ THS 6:00
- Aug. 10** Home Football Game (Warren Co.)
- Aug. 17** Home Football Game (Coffee Co.)
- Aug. 26** Home Football Game (North)
- Sept. 10** Middle School Night @THS Football Stadium
- Nov. 20** \*All Mid-State Jazz Auditions (Antioch HS)
- Dec. 3** Tullahoma Christmas Parade
- Dec. 4** \*Mock Mid-State Auditions 9:00AM @THS
- Dec. 11** \*All Mid-State Band Auditions (Antioch HS)
- Dec. 12** Christmas Concert 2:00 P.M. @THS
- Jan. 6-8** Mid-State Band Clinic
- Jan. 13-15** Mid-State Jazz Clinic
- April 24** Spring Pops Concert 2:00 P.M. @ THS
- May 7** Solo & Ensemble Festival @ THS

\* Not all Band Members are required to audition for Mid-State Bands.