

NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS PROCEDURES AND STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

These expectations and guidelines are here so that your band experience can be focused on the enjoyment of making great music. Being a member of the ensemble is the focus of band. The failure to follow these guidelines will result in a chaotic environment, which will greatly detract from our goal of making enjoyable music.

Concert Attendance Policy

All students must attend scheduled concerts and performances. Mr. Miller will determine if a student is to be excused from a performance. I follow the guidelines below:

1. Missed performances will be excused only under the following circumstances:
 - Illness or family emergency on the day of the performance.
 - A written note explaining the absence is required, and the absence must be an excused absence from school. Students should make every effort to attend school, even for a half day on performance dates.
 - Please note that I consider family emergencies to be death of a family member, severe health emergency or other extenuating circumstance that prevents a student from being in a performance.
 - I must have parental contact in the form of a note or a phone call for an excused absence.
 - Please try to not schedule family vacations during scheduled school sessions.
2. Transportation problems will not be excused absences. With over 200 students in the program, rides to and from concerts should be easy to obtain. Concert calendars are given out at the beginning of school and reminder notifications are sent home with students. Please arrange for transportation. Call me if you need help. I can find another student who lives close to provide a ride, or will provide a ride with your permission.
3. In cases where a schedule conflict with a school-sponsored event exists with a performance, the student is to inform the teacher of the conflict with two weeks notice. The student should be prepared to assist Mr. Miller and the other VBPS coach or sponsor in finding a solution to the conflict. It is my policy to not pin down a student between myself and another adult, but I will hold the student accountable for giving proper notice. "I didn't know about it" is not going to be adequate. Since the concert performance is a curricular component of school, I consider it to take precedence over all extra curricular activities.
4. All other conflicts of schedule require the same two weeks notice, including specific reasons for the request. These will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Fulfilling the notification requirement does not automatically mean the absence will be excused. Because time is required to rework a performance in anticipation of an absence of a member, two weeks notice is required. There will be no exceptions to this policy.
5. In cases of excused absences, students will perform their concert music for an exam with the teacher. In cases of unexcused absences, the grade will be lowered 20 % for the marking period in which the performance took place.

Concert Dress

Concert dress for 6th and 7th grade, unless otherwise stated, will be **white collared shirt or blouse, black pants or skirt and dark shoes and socks**. Please no jeans, t-shirts or tennis shoes. Performances are semi-formal events for the ensembles, and appropriate clothing must be worn. The Eighth Grade Concert Band will be purchasing matching concert shirts at a cost of \$12-15 per person. The Concert Band has approximately 10 performances throughout the year, and this allows a more formal look. The 8th grade band will also wear **black pants or skirt and dark shoes**.

Class Expectations

1. Students are expected to be in class with their instruments, books, music, instrumental supplies (reeds, oil etc) and a pencil each day.
 - * Just as you have a spare tire in your car, Woodwind students are to have 3 usable reeds at all times.
 - * All brass players should have valve oil and slide grease to keep their instrument in working condition. Brass players using school instruments will need to purchase their own mouthpiece and valve oil.

- * Percussion students are expected to purchase their own sticks and Mallets and have a Stick bag to safely store them.
 - * Students are expected to take care of their instruments. The Marshall Music rep calls on the school two times each week. He can pick up and return instruments for repair. If you do not have a rental agreement with them, they can repair instruments with credit card for payment and still pick up and deliver.
2. Students are expected to practice! This is their homework for band. The length of time depends on the individual, with thirty minutes a day for 3/7 days per week being recommended, or until the students can play the assigned music 100% accurately. Students playing tuba should see Mr. Miller to obtain an instrument to practice at home. You will need to rotate and share instruments for home practice.
 3. Students must have a Band folder in their binder or school organizer. This is to keep loose documents that they need in class. Actual sheet music is kept in a folder that does not leave the room.
 4. No food, gum or drink will be allowed in the band room.
 5. Students are responsible for the storage of their own instrument. Each student is assigned a storage rack and is responsible for placing the instrument and music in that space each day. 6th grade flutes and clarinets are to be stored in their individual locker.
 - * ALL STUDENTS WILL PLACE THEIR NAME PERMANENTLY IN AND ON THEIR CASE!! This is for the safety and protection of your instrument.
 - * The instrument storage room should not be considered secure for overnight storage. Therefore, the school is not responsible for loss of an instrument in the band room overnight.
 - * It is always prudent to record the serial number, make and model number of your instrument and store this information in a safe place.