

Welcome to the Summit MS 6th Grade Bands!

The Summit staff would like to welcome you to an exciting new year at Summit Middle School. My name is Mrs. Green and I am teaching 6th grade band and 6th -7th grade lessons. Johnston is a outstanding district and I love being a part of it!

We offer many activities and programs for 6th graders, and one of the most rewarding and exciting of these is **BAND!** The benefits of participation in band are very important for you now as 6th graders and throughout adulthood. These include:

- * Problem Solving Skills
- * Teamwork
- * Goal Setting
- * Self-expression
- * Coordination
- * Memory Skills
- * Self-confidence and Self-esteem
- * Concentration
- * Poise
- * Higher ACT and SAT scores
- * Stronger higher-order thinking skills such as spatial reasoning

The focus of 6th grade band is to develop musicianship and responsibility through large-group rehearsals, small group lessons, and performances. We have a large number of students enrolled in 6th grade band this year, which means we will have 4 large groups. Two of the groups will be working with Mrs. Dunn-Hayward and the other two will be working with me. Students will have a large group rehearsal every other day, which means one week they will rehearse on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and the next week on Tuesday and Thursday. Please keep a careful eye on when band days are!

Within the first few weeks of school, I will be meeting with students in small groups to get to know them better, and to hear them play. Students will then be assigned to a small lesson group according to their instrument and where they are currently working in their lesson book. Lessons are 20 minutes in length and are during the school day.

The 6th grade band has three performances this year in November, February and May. There is an optional solo festival in February, and there will also be a non-graded enrichment performance at the Adventureland Festival of Bands in May for those students who qualify. (You will be receiving more information on this at a later date.) *Performances are the culmination of weeks of hard work and practice, and attendance is strictly enforced. Please check the performance calendar in the handbook and put the dates on your calendar now!*

The handbook describes the rest of our program in detail including grading, performance dates, and expectations. Students and parents should read through this handbook carefully, and return the form on the back stating that you have read and understand the material. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

I'm looking forward to a great year!

Mrs. Wendy Green
wgreen@johnston.k12.ia.us
986-0318

Summit Middle School 6th Grade Band Performance Dates 2009-2010

3 Required events for all 6th grade band students

**Thursday,
November 12** 6th grade band concert, Summit cafetorium
6:30 p.m. - Mrs. Dunn-Hayward's students
7:30 p.m. - Mrs. Green's students

**Thursday,
February 25** 6th grade band concert, Summit cafetorium
6:30 p.m. - Mrs. Dunn-Hayward's students
7:30 p.m. - Mrs. Green's students

**Tuesday,
May 11** 6th grade band concert, Summit cafetorium
6:30 p.m. - Mrs. Dunn-Hayward's students
7:30 p.m. - Mrs. Green's students

Optional/possible performances

February 13 6th grade solo festival, Summit MS
10 minute time slot, times to be determined

April 30 & May 1 Performance at the Adventureland Festival of Bands and fun day at the park
**Students will be selected for this honors group,
based on the following criteria: playing quiz over band music, lesson
attendance, rehearsal preparation & participation, and practice minutes*

GRADING

Grades will be regularly posted on Infinite Campus, our online grading program. It is the responsibility of the parents and students to check Infinite Campus for updates on grades. Because of the large number of students in our program, parents will not be notified every time a lesson is missed. If you do not have access to Infinite Campus, please notify Mrs. Dunn-Hayward or Mrs. Green.

Grading Categories:

Large Group Rehearsals (30% of grade):

attendance with all appropriate materials (music, instrument and pencil), active participation, musical growth and achievement

Performances (10% of grade)

attendance with all appropriate materials, appropriate dress (no tennis shoes, jeans, shorts or t-shirts, as possible) and on time, active participation

Performances are REQUIRED. They are the culmination of months of hard work, and it is extremely discouraging to the student if they have to miss. A student will be excused from a performance only when they are ill or have a family emergency. When it is necessary for a student to miss a performance for any other reason, parents must call the director NO LESS THAN 3 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE. The director will determine if the absence is excused or unexcused.

Lessons (60% of grade):

attendance with all appropriate materials (instrument and music), preparation of assigned materials (see grading rubric below for grading criteria)

**Lessons are worth 100 points per week. Missed lessons may be made up, at the discretion of the director. For a lesson to be excused because of a class conflict (test, etc.), your lesson teacher must receive a written note, phone call or e-mail from your classroom teacher. Lesson attendance is the number one element for success!

LESSON GRADING RUBRIC

EXCELLENT Lesson	GOOD Lesson	SATISFACTORY Lesson	NOT PREPARED Lesson	DID NOT ATTEND
-arrives punctually and is on task -is able to play all assignments alone -all notes, rhythms & musical details are performed accurately, at an even & steady tempo, using good technique & showing evidence of excellent practice -is able to apply musical knowledge to performances	-arrives punctually and is on task -sometimes needs guided practice (play-along) -makes a few mistakes in the areas listed to the left, but playing reflects good technique. Exhibits an understanding of the material & evidence of quality practice -musical knowledge is evident, but needs reminders to put into practice	-is punctual, but is occasionally off task -needs guided practice most of the time (play-along) -makes a number of mistakes in the areas listed to the left & is unable to play smoothly and evenly -inconsistent at maintaining good technique, reflects need for more practice -has difficulty remembering musical concepts and putting them into practice	-arrives late, off task frequently -cannot play alone, always needs help -struggles to complete assigned material in lesson and has many mistakes, lack of practice is obvious -musical concepts and knowledge must always be reinforced	-did not attend lesson with appropriate materials (book and instrument) or did not attend
100 points	95 points	85 points	75 points	0 points

How to be successful in 6th grade band

(1) **Practice:** Students must have regular practice to be successful. Just like homework for any other class, students need to set aside a time each day to practice the recommended time of 20-30 minutes per day, or 90 minutes per week. Practice minutes should be written down (in planner or lesson book) and signed by a parent. They will be checked periodically in lessons. This is the homework for band!

NO PRACTICE = NO PROGRESS

(2) **Lessons:** Students must have regular lesson attendance to be successful. Lessons will be scheduled during the regular school day and are our way for students to “turn in” their homework for band. Students need to be organized to remember their band lessons, because unlike in 5th grade, they are not coming with a group from their classroom. *The use of a watch with an alarm or using a planner are good ways for students to remember lessons.*

(3) **Rehearsal discipline:** Students need to have the ability to remain focused in a large group setting. Students need to remain quiet and attentive, and come to class prepared.

(4) **Stick with your instrument:** Switching instruments seems like a good way to create a new spark when the glamour has worn off, **but it puts students a full year behind.** Rarely does this work, and students become more frustrated. Due to our lesson groupings, we cannot offer beginning band lessons on a new instrument in 6th grade.

Materials for 6th Grade Band

- Essential Elements Bk. 1 & 2 for your instrument (also Performing Percussionist for percussion)
- Several reeds that are in good playing condition (woodwinds), valve oil (trumpets), slide oil (trombones)
- Percussion: stick bag with snare sticks (wooden tip, general size), medium (hardness) yarn mallets, hard rubber mallets, general timpani mallets. **Put your name on everything!!!**
- Cleaning kit for your instrument
- Pencil at ALL rehearsals!

**There are NO supplies for sale at school - it is the student's responsibility to acquire the necessary materials in a timely fashion.*

Band Room Expectations

1. Expect Respect
2. Be Punctual
3. Be Prepared
4. Be Productive

Private Lessons

Students are always encouraged to take private lessons with a specialist on their instrument, but it is not a requirement. Please contact Mrs. Green or Mrs. Dunn-Hayward for a list of qualified teachers that they would recommend.

Dropping Band

Students may drop band during the first two weeks of school, or at the end of the 2nd quarter. Students WILL NOT be allowed to drop at any other time, as stated in the Summit student handbook.

****Please note: It is YOUR responsibility to put your name on your case, record your instrument's serial number at home, and store it responsibly... not ours. Students who lose their pad lock will have to pay to replace it at the end of the year, as stated in the Summit student handbook.**

PLEASE don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Dunn-Hayward or Mrs. Green if you have any questions!

PLEASE KEEP THIS HANDBOOK FOR YOUR REFERENCE-
RETURN **ONLY** THE LAST PAGE OF THE HANDBOOK

6th Grade Band Contract

Student's Name _____ (please print)

We have read the handbook and understand and agree to the expectations, performance schedule and requirements of the Summit Middle School Band Program. We further understand that the director is always available for consultation and should be contacted should any questions or problems arise.

student's signature

parent's signature

Home (parent) email address (please print clearly)

Date: _____

CONTRACT MUST BE RETURNED FOR PARTICIPATION
IN THE SUMMIT MS BAND PROGRAM

**CONTRACTS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN
AUGUST 28, 2009**

Please return with student or mail to:

Wendy Green
Summit Middle School
PO Box 10
Johnston IA 50131