



6th GRADE BAND HANDBOOK



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. Johnston is an outstanding district and we 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
- 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. Green and the other two will be working with Mrs. Dunn-Hayward. 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, we will be meeting with students in small groups to get to know you better, and to hear you 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 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.

We are looking forward to a great year!

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

Mrs. Mary Dunn-Hayward
marydh@johnston.k12.ia.us
986-0318

Summit Middle School 6th Grade Bands

Performance Dates 2011-2012

3 Required events for ALL 6th grade band students

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday, October 27 | 6 th grade band concert, Summit Cafetorium 5:30 p.m. – Mrs. Dunn-Hayward's students 6:45 p.m. – Mrs. Green's students |
| Monday, February 27 | 6 th grade band concert, Summit Cafetorium 5:30 p.m. – Mrs. Dunn-Hayward's students 6:45 p.m. – Mrs. Green's students |
| Tuesday, May 8 | 6 th grade band concert, Summit Cafetorium 5:30 p.m. – Mrs. Dunn-Hayward's students 6:45 p.m. – Mrs. Green's students |

Optional/possible performance

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 4 | 6 th grade solo festival, Summit MS 10 Minute time slot, times to be determined |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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 participants.

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 on next page for grading criteria).

****Lessons are worth 100 points per week. Makeup lessons will be available the last week of the quarter. If a student misses several lessons, they probably will not be able to make them all up.** 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 RURIC

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

4) **Stick with your instrument:** Switching instrument seems like a good way to create new spark when the glamour has work 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

- Measures of success book 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!

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 teacher that they would recommend.

Dropping Band

Students may drop band during the first two weeks of school, or at the end of 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.**

What skills have you learned or improved by participating in band that you will be able to use throughout your life?

**These are answers written by a few of last year's 6th graders!*

- “In band this year I learned how to make the music sound better by using dynamics, tempo, intonation and playing the right notes. I learned how to be a leader and a team player, and I didn't know most of these skills until this year. Band this year has been great for me and I will be able to use these skills throughout my life.”
- “I think the skills I've learned in band really have an impact on the other classes in school. You should always keep your eyes on whoever is talking and teamwork is very, very important.”
- “I have learned how to cooperate efficiently with people I don't know. Most of all, I learned that music is a lifelong experience!”
- “I learned that the more you practice, the better you get. I also learned that you have to work as a group to sound your best.”
- “I have learned responsibility with lesson times, and knowing my parts. I have improved as an individual player with solo festival. I have made new friends through band. Band has been a wonderful experience for me and I would recommend it to anyone!”

PLEASE do not 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/guardian 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 26, 2011**

Please return with student or mail to:

Mary Dunn-Hayward or Wendy Green
Summit Middle School
PO Box 10
Johnston, IA 50131