



**Summit
Middle School**

**7th Grade
Band
Handbook
2011 - 2012**



Summit 7th Grade Band

August 15, 2011

Dear 7th Grade Band Parents,

The Johnston Instrumental Music Staff would like to welcome you and your son or daughter back to one of the most exciting and rewarding educational ventures our school has to offer - **BAND!** Those of us who have chosen careers in this field have discovered many rewards for our students, which may not be apparent when considering the question, **“Should I stay in band?”**

Statistics prove that young people who participate in music are among the academically strongest in their schools. They also have higher SAT & ACT score averages than their fellow classmates. Their adult lives are filled with the success which is a direct result of their band experience: self-discipline, group cooperation, high self-esteem, understanding teamwork, developing a sense of persistence and performance confidence. As your child progresses in their understanding and command of the instrument, you will see how this same desire for excellence applies to every subject in school and serves as a training ground for dealing with many aspects of adult life.

Staying involved with your child's progress is key to his/her success. To help your child be successful in band this year I encourage you to do the following.

- **Help your student get back on a regular practice schedule and applaud their efforts!**
- **Read through the information in this handbook with your student.**
- **Post the concert dates on your family calendar Students are required to attend concerts in order to participate in band.**
- **Check your child's lesson attendance and grade regularly on Infinite Campus.**
- **Return the Band Contract found at the back of this packet by Friday, August 26, 2011.**

Thank you for your time, energy and on going support of our band program. Any communication which concerns the welfare of the program and/or your young musician is encouraged. Please feel free to call me at Summit (986-0318) or, it is often quicker to e-mail me at pwolfe@johnston.k12.ia.us should you have any questions or concerns.

Once again, we welcome you to a new stage of performance as we continue to **STRIKE UP THE BAND!**

Musically yours,

Mrs. Peggy E. Wolfe
Director of 7th Grade Bands

Grading Categories & General Information

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. Wolfe

Lessons: 60% of quarter grade

A key element in a student's success is regular individual or small group instruction.

Lessons are...

- ★ In small groups
- ★ The same time each week
- ★ 20 minutes long

In lessons teachers guide individual students learning and assess student progress.

Lesson grade for the quarter is based on the following...

- ★ Preparation of assigned material and regular assessments **See Lesson Performance Rubric*
- ★ Being on time with instrument and music
- ★ Best 5 lesson grades each quarter

Rehearsals: 30% of quarter grade

In rehearsals students apply the knowledge and skills acquired in lessons to the large ensemble. They also learn to be problem solvers and work as a team. No one ever sits on the bench in band!

To be successful in rehearsals students are expected to...

- ★ Bring their instrument, music and pencil
- ★ Be in their seat ready to play on time
- ★ Have a positive and cooperative attitude
- ★ Actively participate throughout rehearsal

Performance: 10% of quarter grade

Performance plays a major role in the musical development of young students and is an extension of the classroom and learning experience in Summit 7th Grade Band

*Students are expected to participate in the 3 required concerts.*See Performance Requirements.*

- ★ October 25, 2011 6:30/7:30 p.m. @ Summit
- ★ February 28, 2011 6:30/7:30 p.m. @ Summit
- ★ May 7, 2011 6:30/7:30 p.m. @ Summit

The performances listed below are not required but an option for those students who work hard!

See the explanation on the following page.

- ✓ Solo Festival, Saturday, March 3, 2012
- ✓ Adventureland Festival of Bands, Friday, May 4, 2012



General Information

Concerts: Performances are REQUIRED. They are the culmination of months of hard work and learning. A student will be excused from a concert only when they are ill from school 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 CONCERT. The director will determine if the absence is excused or unexcused.

Solo Festival: Students who show careful practice and attention to detail and consistent lesson attendance will be invited to participate in Solo Festival on Saturday, March 3, 2011. Music and registration forms for those students will be sent home in January.

Adventureland Festival of Bands

Performance Friday, May 4 2012----after school at Ankeny High School

Fun Day Saturday, May 5 2012 -----Adventureland Park

*****This is not a required performance. It is a reward for those students who work hard this year and meet all requirements of eligibility.***

To be eligible for the Adventureland Band, students must do the following:

- Have a record of regular lesson attendance
- Earn consistent lesson grades that reflect careful and regular practice
- Display a positive attitude and actively participate in rehearsals
- Prepare all band music thoroughly
- Attend all required concerts

Lessons: All regular lessons will be scheduled during the regular school day between 7:55 and 2:55.

Make Up lessons will be available the last two weeks of the quarter. Only two make up lessons will be allowed each quarter. Students must make a committed effort to attend their regular lesson time before make up lessons will be scheduled.

Instrument Repair: A student whose instrument is being repaired will not lose rehearsal credit if a copy of the dated invoice is submitted to the director after the instrument is picked up. A note from the parent will also be accepted provided the student will not be without an instrument for more than (1) week.

Practice: Continued growth, both musically and technically, requires that students spend time outside of rehearsals and lessons practicing their instrument. All 7th Grade Band students will be required to practice and show continued progress on band music and lesson music. A minimum of 90 minutes weekly is suggested. Practice time should be divided among 4-5 days per week for maximum benefit. Frequency and repetition will achieve maximum results!

Private Lessons: Due to the increasing number of students in the band program and the size of lesson groups, students are encouraged to enhance their musical talents through private study. Private lessons with a pre-approved instructor provide students the opportunity to work at their own pace and receive individualized instruction from a specialist on their instrument. Students may receive extra credit for taking private lessons outside of school provided that the private instructor has been pre-approved by the directors. Please note that private study is optional and not required to receive an "A" in band.

Suggested Supply List

All Band Students

1" notebook with pockets and plastic sheet covers. This helps students avoid losing music and lesson books!

Clarinets and Saxophones

- Plenty of reeds!! Students should have a minimum of 4 good reeds at all times. The school will no longer sell reeds.
- Reed Guard. These hold four reeds at a time and help prolong the life of the reeds when used properly. Reeds should never be left on the mouthpiece when putting the instrument away.
- Cleaning swab. Proper cleaning of your instrument will save on costly replacement of pads in the future. Be sure to swab your instrument out after every use.
- Polishing rag. Polish off fingerprints to preserve the finish of your instrument.

Flutes

- Pad savers listed above are excellent for flutes also. Otherwise students should have a soft rag and cleaning rod to clean instrument after every use.
- Polishing rag. Polish off fingerprints to preserve the finish of your instrument.

Trumpets

- Valve Oil. Suggested brand, Blue Juice
- Tuning Slide Grease. Tuning slides should be kept greased and free moving.
- Mouthpiece brush for cleaning out the shank of the mouthpiece
- Snake for cleaning out tubing
- Polishing rag. Polish off fingerprints to preserve the finish of your instrument.

Trombones

- Slide Lubricant, suggested "Slido Mix Kit"
- Tuning slide grease. Keep the tuning slide free moving
- Mouthpiece brush for cleaning out the shank of the mouthpiece
- Snake for cleaning out tubing
- Polishing rag. Polish off finger prints to preserve the finish of your instrument

Tuba, Baritone, French Horn

- Valve Oil and a polishing rag will be included in your school instrument usage fee. Oil valves every time you play. Polish off all fingerprints before you put your instrument away.

Percussion should have received a list of required sticks in 6th grade. They include

- Stick bag (be sure your name is on the bag!)
- Snare sticks (wooden tip)
- Medium yarn mallets
- Hard rubber mallets
- General-purpose Timpani mallets

Summit Middle School 7th Grade Band Lesson Performance Rubric

EXCELLENT	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	NOT PREPARED	DID NOT ATTEND
<p>-arrives punctually and is on task during lesson</p> <p>-is able to play all assignments alone</p> <p>-all notes, rhythms, and musical details are performed accurately, at an even & steady tempo, using good technique and showing evidence of excellent practice</p> <p>-is able to apply musical knowledge to performances</p>	<p>-arrives punctually and is on task during lesson</p> <p>-sometimes needs guided practice (play-along)</p> <p>-makes a few mistakes in areas listed to the left, but playing reflects good technique and 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 during lesson</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 in practice</p>	<p>-arrives late, is off task during lesson</p> <p>-cannot play alone, always needs help</p> <p>-struggles to complete assigned material in lesson, lack of practice is obvious</p> <p>-musical ability and concepts must always be reinforced</p>	<p>-did not attend lesson with appropriate materials (instrument, book, music) or did not attend</p> <p>*SEE BELOW</p>
100 points	90 points	80 points	70 points	0 points

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY THE INFORMATION BELOW

*Students must attend a minimum of five lessons each quarter. Their quarter lesson grade, will be an average of the five best lesson grades they received for the quarter

*It is expected that students will occasionally miss lessons because of tests, projects, field trips or illness. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with their lesson teacher when they must miss a lesson. It is also their responsibility to schedule make up lessons as needed to fulfill their five required lessons each quarter.

7th Grade Band Contract

By signing the contract below you are indicating that you have read and understand the expectations listed in the 7th Grade Band Handbook.

BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE READ THE LIST OF REQUIRED PERFORMANCE DATES BEFORE SIGNING THIS CONTRACT ! YOU ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL CONCERTS IF YOU SIGN UP FOR BAND.

Please remember, Band is a semester commitment. No students may drop band except at the end of the semester!!!!

Students may not switch instruments in 7th grade!

Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent e-mail address: _____ or

Please print clearly

Extra Credit !

Have your parent e-mail me so that I can add them to my address book and receive 100 points extra credit. pwolfe@johnston.k12.ia.us

CONTRACTS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 26, 2011

(Contract may be returned with student or mailed to;)

Peggy Wolfe
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