

**Summit
Middle School**

**7th Grade
Band
Handbook
2009 - 2010**

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.

Lessons: All regular lessons will be scheduled during the regular school day between 7:55 and 2:55. Before and after school times will be used to schedule make up lessons when time is available. Please remember that teachers may have group rehearsals or meetings before or after school.

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.

*****Special Performance Opportunities*****

These performances are not required. Students must earn the privilege of participating.

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, April 3, 2010. Music and registration forms for those students will be sent home in January.

Adventureland Honors Band: Students will have the opportunity during the school year to earn a place in the "Summit 7th Grade Honors Band" which will perform at the Adventureland Festival of Bands on Friday, April 30, 2010. The band will be made up of students selected from each of the three 7th grade bands. They will also enjoy a fun day together at Adventureland Park on Saturday, May 1, 2010.

Students will be selected for the Honors Band based on,

- ✓ Having a record of regular lesson attendance
- ✓ Earning consistent lesson grades that reflect careful and regular practice
- ✓ Displaying a positive attitude and actively participating in rehearsals
- ✓ Preparing band music thoroughly
- ✓ Attending all required concerts

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 3 required concerts. **See Performance Requirements.*

- ★ November 10, 2009 6:30/7:30 p.m. @ Summit
- ★ February 23, 2010 6:30/7:30 p.m. @ Summit
- ★ May 10, 2010 All 7th bands combined 7:30 p.m. @ 8-9 Middle School Auditorium

Students will also be given individual performance assessments through out the year.



**There are two additional
“special performance
opportunities” for
motivated students listed
on the next page!**