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Dear Students and Parents,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Ninth Grade Band program at Johnston Middle School. I hope that this finds you returning from a fulfilling summer vacation and ready to explore the exciting possibilities and new challenges that 9th Grade Band has to offer. The momentum that we are taking into this fall is tremendous! This year's freshman class is riding the heels of a very successful eighth grade year. The band department is very proud of **EACH** of you!

This handbook has been developed for the members of the JMS band program and their parents with the sincere desire to communicate the standards, procedures, and opportunities available in the JMS band program. We have a proud tradition that revolves around YOU, the band student; this tradition continues because you respect the concepts presented in this handbook.

**All band members and their parents are asked to carefully and thoughtfully examine this entire handbook. After reading the handbook, parents and students are asked to sign and return the JMS band contract (on page 15), thus indicating their understanding and acceptance of the policies therein. Please make a special note of the handbook section regarding performance and attendance issues. Each member of our ensemble is crucial to our success; your attendance at our performances is necessary for us to be the very best that we can be. Please note the required performance dates and mark them on your calendars immediately. Performance is an important part of our evaluation process and one of the most significant parts of our curriculum.**

As we continue to redefine our recently adopted middle school structure, there may be questions about how the 9th Grade Band members fit into the Johnston High School (10 - 12) band program. At this juncture, there are two ways in which ninth graders may participate in the JHS band program: freshmen students have the **OPTION** of participating in the JHS Marching Band and in the JHS jazz band program. Both of these opportunities are extracurricular and optional in nature, and will occur before school at 7:00 a.m. Last year, we had many students take advantage of and enjoy both of these exciting opportunities. Ninth Grade Band students will also be eligible to participate in the All-State Band auditions, Solo and Ensemble Festival, and SCIBA Honor Band.

I am very excited about this year's freshman band! There is a great wealth of talent and leadership in this ensemble, and we are going to enjoy many wonderful experiences together. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time. E-mail is often the most efficient and effective way to reach me ([jheidbreder@johnston.k12.ia.us](mailto:jheidbreder@johnston.k12.ia.us)). I may also be reached by phone at 278-0476. Thank you for being involved in the Johnston Bands!

Sincerely,

Jessica Heidbreder  
Ninth Grade Band Director

## **JMS Band: 2011 - 2012 Calendar of Events**

### **Required Performances (Concert Band)**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Call Time</u></b>	<b><u>Perf. Time</u></b>
Oct. 31	Fall Concert	JMS Auditorium	6:45 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 28	Winter Concert	JMS Auditorium	6:45 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
March 2	SCIBA HS Concert Band Festival	TBA	TBA	TBA
May 8	Spring Concert	JMS Auditorium	6:45 p.m.	7:30 p.m.

### **Optional Individual Opportunities**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Call Time</u></b>	<b><u>Perf. Time</u></b>
Oct. 22	All State Auditions	Indianola HS	TBA	TBA
Nov.17-19	All State Festival	ISU Campus	TBA	TBA
Dec. 1	SCIBA Honor Band Auditions	TBA	PM	PM
Jan. 7	SCIBA Honor Band	Drake University	All Day	All Day
April 28	Solo and Ensemble	JMS	TBA	TBA

### **Jazz and Marching Band Performances**

Schedules will be provided by JHS Instrumental Staff. Please contact Patrick Kearney, Director of Bands at Johnston High School, with questions (e-mail: [pkearney@johnston.k12.ia.us](mailto:pkearney@johnston.k12.ia.us)).

# **JMS Band Department Philosophy**

## **Philosophy Statement**

Music is vital to the development of all human beings and is a necessary part of any well-balanced curriculum. The ability to perform, create, and intelligently listen to music is a direct result of a cohesive and integrated academic discipline involving the cognitive, psychomotor and affective domains. The study of music requires a balanced and systematic approach to skill and conceptual development. Further, an effective music program assists students in the realization of aesthetic self-awareness and the ability to make informed musical value judgments.

## **Goals Statement**

The primary goals of the JMS band program are to stimulate curiosity, encourage intellectual development, and promote aesthetic self-awareness. Band students will have the opportunity to become musically literate, to refine their playing skills, to develop active and critical listening skills, and to pursue creative outlets through music. Students will also participate in a variety of meaningful musical experiences that will enhance their ability to synthesize musical elements and to make informed musical value judgments.

## **Belief Statements**

1. We believe that excellence is the hallmark of our band program and our measure of accountability.
2. We believe that high expectations for students, staff, parents, and the community lead to excellence.
3. We believe that there is a place in the JMS band program for every student who loves to make music as part of a quality music program.
4. We believe that excellence occurs when students take ownership of the learning process.
5. We believe that students learn best in a positive atmosphere supported by clear expectations.
6. We believe that cooperative planning by staff, students, and parents is crucial to our success.

# **Ninth Grade Band Performing Opportunities**

## **Ninth Grade Concert Band**

All ninth grade band students participate in Ninth Grade Concert Band. This ensemble performs in three home concerts and one adjudicated festival each year. It is the belief of the Johnston band staff that the concert band is the core of our band program. The Ninth Grade Band will perform a variety of the highest quality band literature representing diverse styles, historical periods, and composers. Students will continue to refine their individual and ensemble performance skills and will focus on the development of technical fluency and comprehensive musicianship.

## **Marching Band**

The JHS Marching Dragons are rapidly becoming one of the state's finest marching units. **Participation in marching band is optional for ninth grade students.** The marching band performs at all home football games and approximately five contests each fall. The marching band participates in a band camp in early August and rehearses at 7:00 a.m. during the first seven weeks of the school year. The drum line and color guard are auditioned auxiliaries in the marching band. Auditions for drum line assignments and color guard membership occur in April and/or May.

## **Jazz Bands**

Ninth grade students participate in the Johnston High School jazz band program. Students in our jazz program will study literature representing a variety of jazz styles, historical periods, and composers. Special emphasis will be placed on the study of improvisation in big band and combo settings.

Auditions for placement into one of our three jazz organizations occur in April and/or May. All students who complete the audition process will be placed in an ensemble. All three jazz groups maintain active performance and festival schedules. Early morning jazz rehearsals begin at the conclusion of the marching band season. The jazz program includes the following ensembles:

## **Jazz Syndicate**

The Jazz Syndicate is the most select jazz group at JHS. The Jazz Ensemble rehearses at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

## **Jazz Band**

The Jazz Band is the "second" jazz group at JHS. The Jazz Band rehearses primarily at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

## **Jazz Lab Band**

The Jazz Lab Band is a training ensemble for our jazz groups. The Jazz Lab Band rehearses at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

## **Chamber Ensembles**

A variety of optional chamber ensemble opportunities are also available to our Ninth Grade Band students. These ensembles will rehearse during third and fourth quarter in preparation for Solo and Ensemble Festival.

# **Band Behavior Standards and Expectations**

It is our belief that the students in the Johnston Band Program represent the finest students in our community. We are very proud of our band program and the students that define it. Thus, we maintain very high standards of musical performance and decorum/behavior.

1. All school rules are in effect at all band functions -- consult your JMS Student Handbook for details.
2. Always show respect for yourselves and for others -- ALWAYS perform to the best of your ability. PRACTICE LIKE YOU PERFORM!
3. Come to class prepared with all required materials: instrument, music, pencil, highlighter, and accessories (mutes, reeds, oil, grease, etc.).
4. Students are to be in their assigned seats ready to perform **TWO** minutes after the tardy bell. Take all required materials with you to your seat and inform the director (in writing) of music that you are missing. Use passing time for restroom visits, water breaks, reed purchases, etc.
5. Always maintain your instrument in excellent working condition. Store all instruments in the assigned location. Please label your instrument with a name tag for easy identification.
6. The percussion area is off limits to all non-percussionists at all times.
7. No gum, food, or drink is allowed in the band room without permission of the directors.
8. Homework, reading texting, etc. will not be permitted during rehearsal.
9. Warming up at a mf level is encouraged; however, when the director mounts the podium, the students must be silent. Once rehearsal has started, the students must remain quiet for the duration of the rehearsal. Please raise your hand if you have a question.

## **10. REHEARSAL TIMES ARE WORK TIMES. WE MUST USE OUR TIME WISELY.**

- 1. SHOW UP**
- 2. SHOW UP ON TIME**
- 3. SHOW UP WITH THE RIGHT STUFF**
- 4. SHOW UP WITH RESPECT**

## Expectations and Choices

Should students choose not to abide by the aforementioned band behavior expectations, the following consequences will apply:

<u>Occurrence</u>	<u>Consequence</u>
1st	Verbal warning
2nd	Verbal warning and 30 minute detention. Detention will consist of service work or practice time and must be served within two days.
3rd	Verbal warning and 40 minute detention. Parents are contacted.
4th	Office referral and administrative action.
5th	After a student has progressed through this sequence twice in a given semester, he/she may be removed from the band program. This will be determined in a meeting with the music staff, parents, and administrators.

Please note: Steps 1 - 4 occur on a monthly basis.

### SEVERE CLAUSE

A student will be sent to the office immediately for threatening any individual, fighting, vandalizing school or personal property, possessing a controlled substance, possessing a weapon, disrupting class in an inappropriate manner, or compromising the safety of a student or staff member in any way. Should a student be removed from class on a severe clause, he/she will proceed immediately to step five.

### PLEASE NOTE:

WHILE THESE POLICIES MUST BE IN PLACE TO ENSURE THAT YOUR BAND EXPERIENCE IS NOT COMPROMISED BY INAPPROPRIATE CHOICES, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT WE RARELY HAVE TO RESORT TO APPLYING THESE CONSEQUENCES AT THE NINTH GRADE LEVEL. THIS IS NOT BECAUSE WE DO NOT ENFORCE OUR EXPECTATIONS, BUT RATHER, BECAUSE OUR STUDENTS CONTINUE TO MAKE CHOICES THAT REFLECT OUR HIGH EXPECTATIONS AND THAT MAKE US PROUD. LET'S CHOOSE TO CONTINUE THIS TRADITION OF PERSONAL INTEGRITY AND OUTSTANDING CHARACTER.

# 9th Grade Band Grading System

Each student's grade will be derived from his/her achievement in these four areas:

1. Performances (See below)
2. Rehearsals (35%)
3. Lessons (30%)
4. Musical Growth (35%)

## 1. Performances

Performances play a significant role in the musical development of our students and are an extension of the classroom experience at JMS. While we understand that there are situations outside of our control, **it is essential that all students participate in each required performance.** *A student will be excused from a required performance when he/she is ill or has a family emergency. In the event of an illness or emergency, parents are asked to contact the director as soon as they become aware of the situation. When other situations (e.g., a family wedding) dictate that a student must miss a required performance, the parent must contact the director no fewer than **three weeks** prior to the performance. At that time, the director will determine if the absence will be excused. Please note: Any conflicts with another JMS/JHS activity will be resolved by the band directors, the activity sponsors/coaches, the activity director, and the administrative team. Students are expected to respect the decisions made by these parties. Also, in accordance with school policy, school events take precedence over non-school events.*

## An unexcused performance absence will result in the following:

1. The student's grade will be lowered two full letter grades.

## ALL students who miss a required performance (unexcused or excused) will be required to make up four hours of practice time during the relevant grading period.

1. At the completion of these four hours, students with an UNEXCUSED absence will have their grade raised one full letter grade.
2. The letter grade of students with excused absences will not be penalized unless they fail to complete their four hours of practice time. In this event, the student's grade will be lowered one full letter grade.

# 9th Grade Band Grading System (Continued)

## **2. Rehearsals (35%)**

Each student receives a grade for each rehearsal. Maximum credit is earned by being on time, having all required equipment (instrument, music, accessories, pencil, and highlighter), being attentive and fully engaged in the rehearsal process, and exhibiting a positive attitude/good posture, etc. Points are deducted for tardiness, inattentiveness, talking during rehearsal, failure to have all required materials, lack of participation during class, and unexcused absences from rehearsals. If a student is addressed for inappropriate behavior during a rehearsal, he/she will not receive full credit for that rehearsal. Rehearsals are the core of our program; your performance in these rehearsals ultimately defines our ability to grow as a musical ensemble. A rubric is used by instructors to assess rehearsal skills to determine each student's rehearsal grade.

## **3. Lessons (30%)**

All students will be required to take lessons. A lesson schedule will be posted regularly; it is the student's responsibility to make sure that he/she attends the required number of lessons each quarter. Students taking private lessons with an *approved* teacher will receive credit for those lessons. (Private lesson students will need to have their private lesson teacher complete a progress report to receive credit for their private lessons). Full lesson credit is achieved by demonstrating progress from lesson to lesson. A variety of materials will be used for each student to develop individual technique and musicianship.

## **4. Musical Growth (35%)**

### **Musical Growth includes the following assessments:**

1. Playing tests over lesson materials and band music
2. Scale tests over major and chromatic scales
3. Written assignments
4. Rehearsal notes (students must turn in band music with appropriate rehearsal markings and notes)

**Extra credit will be available as the occasion arises; see the director for details.**

# Required Supply List

All students must have the following items. If the acquisition of these items creates a financial burden for your family, please see Mrs. Heidbreder.

## 1. A pencil and a highlighter

1. Please keep these in your folder -- we will have occasional pencil checks
2. Music will be graded on the inclusion of appropriate markings

## 2. A lesson book

1. Essential Technique 2000, published by Hal Leonard is the required lesson book for JMS
2. If you have misplaced your book from last year, it will need to be replaced

## 3. Reed Players

1. Must have a minimum of three “good” reeds at all times
2. Please consult with your lesson teacher to determine the most appropriate brand and strength of reed for your needs.
3. Must have appropriate maintenance accessories (swabs, pad savers, cork grease, etc.)

## 4. Valved Brass Players

1. Must have valve oil (Blue Juice is recommended)
2. Must have tuning slide grease
3. Must have mutes as needed

## 5. Trombone Players

1. Must have “Slide-o-Mix” and a spray bottle
2. Must have tuning slide grease
3. Must have mutes as needed

## 6. Percussionists must provide:

1. One pair of snare sticks (5A) regular or nylon tip
2. One pair of timpani mallets (General)
3. One pair of xylophone mallets (Medium)
4. A personal stick/mallet bag for your belongings

**Any student who is considering purchasing a new instrument, mouthpiece, etc., please consult with your lesson teacher.**

## **9th Grade Band Concert Attire**

The Ninth Grade Concert Band will perform at three home concerts and at the SCIBA Concert Band Festival. The required concert attire is as follows. We believe that this attire provides a uniform presentation and an appropriate appearance on stage for our high quality ensemble. If the acquisition of these items creates a financial burden for your family, please see Mrs. Heidbreder.

### **Ladies**

1. Solid black dress slacks or a solid black skirt
  1. Dress slacks = no five pocket styling or rivets
  2. Black skirts must be knee-length when seated
  3. No black denim
2. Modest solid white blouse
  1. No exposed shoulders or midriffs
  2. Must have long-sleeves or three-quarter length sleeves
3. Black hose and black dress shoes
  1. No boots or open-toed shoes

### **Men**

1. Solid black dress slacks
  1. Dress slacks = no five pocket styling or rivets
  2. No black denim
2. Long-sleeved solid white dress shirt with a collar
3. Long tie
4. Black socks and black dress shoes

# JMS 9th Grade Band Contract

We have read the JMS 9th Grade Band Handbook and understand and agree to accept the expectations, policies, and procedures therein. We further understand that the director is always available for consultation should the need arise.

Furthermore, we grant permission for our son/daughter to participate in school-sanctioned band department activities. Specifically, we grant permission for our son/daughter to attend band-related performances that occur outside of regular school hours and off school district property. My son/daughter also has permission to travel in transportation provided by Johnston Community School District vehicles or school employees. Specific information regarding each trip will be provided at least one week prior to the date of the trip. All school policies and regulations will be in effect on any trip.

Please sign and return this contract to the band office by **Friday, August 19, 2011**. A signed contract is required for participation in band activities and to receive a passing grade in band.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Home Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Work Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent e-mail address (Please pay special attention to capitalization, \_ vs. -, etc.)**

Please contact the band staff at any time if you have questions or concerns. We hope that you find that we are available and interested in making students and parents comfortable and confident in our program. Mrs. Heidbreder can be reached at 278-0476 or at [jheidbreder@johnston.k12.ia.us](mailto:jheidbreder@johnston.k12.ia.us).