

Centennial Middle School

Beginning Band Handbook

2019-2020 School Year



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HANDBOOK FORMS DUE FRIDAY AUGUST 9
FOR A GRADE.

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Welcome!

Hello and welcome to the Centennial Band Program. If you are returning to us, welcome back! It is with great enthusiasm that I present you with this handbook describing our band program in detail. The band program at Centennial is seeing a great amount of growth, and we look forward to welcoming your child as they join our band family and as they join us in the never-ending pursuit of excellence.

Your child's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership and dependability. Membership in our band program will give all a sense of accomplishment, pride, and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved, and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. Both students and their parents should take the time to thoroughly read this handbook, as you will be held accountable for the info inside. Upon completion, the contract that was distributed to your student during class (or downloaded from our web site) should be signed and returned to school, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.

Band is a Year-Long class. You will be expected to commit for the entire academic year.

Contact Information

I encourage timely, positive communication in regard to your child's progress. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. Email is usually the best way to reach me. Additionally, please feel free to send a note with your child. Please include an email address/phone number

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E-MAIL POLICY: I will be sending home many updates and communications via e-mail throughout the year. Due to the nature of e-mail, all major concerns will need to be addressed through conferences or phone communication. This is to avoid any misunderstandings or unclear intentions through e-mail communication. Parents are encouraged to use e-mail to get more information or clarification regarding events, or to schedule a parent conference.

STUDENT COMMUNICATION: Students are also encouraged to communicate with the directors before concerns become issues. They should do this in person at an appropriate time, one on one. Again, clarification and solid communication will keep everything running smoothly throughout the entire year. Throughout the year, we will be sending quite a bit of information home in the form of letters. Please make every effort to read this information carefully, check calendars often and keep us informed of any conflicts. The sooner we know of a situation, the more options we have in solving problems

Please visit our website at <http://bit.ly/CMSbands>.

Band Class Offerings

Wind Ensemble (Period 1) – This band is the top performing band at Centennial Middle School. Students are selected via audition, as well as work ethic and behavior throughout the year. This group is responsible for representing Centennial Middle School in the community, and will perform approximately 10 times throughout the year across Ahwatukee, and throughout the state.

Concert Band (Period 5) – This band is the standard level band at Centennial Middle School. Students will advance their skills through the performance of fun and exciting music. Students will perform approximately 3-5 times throughout the school year, and will have more opportunities to perform should they wish to.

Beginning Band (Periods 2, 3) – This band is for students new to playing a musical instrument. Students will learn how to make sound, and how to read music. After the first year, students will audition for placement into one of the two more advanced bands listed above.

Percussion (Period 6) – This class is a specialty class for our percussion students in each ensemble. Students will learn all the skills necessary to succeed in percussion performing. This class is extremely selective, and is reserved for our percussion students.

Jazz Band – After School Fridays – This band is open to all interested 7/8th graders. Students will work on the performance of Jazz music for performance in the community.

Learning Goals

Upon exiting the CMS band program in 8th grade, students should be able to:

- Identify parts of their instrument
- Maintain and care for their instrument as well as explain this information to others
- Have an understanding of basic musical notation:
 - Reading, writing and performing pitches
 - Reading, writing and performing rhythms
 - Defining and executing musical symbols (articulation, dynamics, etc)
- Understand and describe proper posture and why we use it.
- Understand how to create a characteristic tone on their instrument
- Read music at a grade level of 3-3.5
- Sightread music at a grade level of 1.5-2.5
- Perform all 12 major scales
- Listen to and meaningfully evaluate recordings of music
- Develop skills in musicianship and performance
- Compose short pieces of music for their instrument
- Perform in small groups (chamber groups)

Other non-musical skills addressed include:

- Organizational Skills
- Leadership Skills
- Time Management
- Life Lessons

Classroom Expectations/Procedures

Please note the following **BAND** expectations:

B – Be Respectful: Be respectful of everyone and everything in the band room. This includes not playing instruments that are not your instrument (no wind players on percussion instruments).

A – Accept Responsibility: Own up to your mistakes. Take charge of your actions and your learning. Be prepared for class.

N – Never Touch Things that do not Belong to You: The equipment in this room is extremely expensive. Do not touch anything that belongs to another student. Wind and Brass students do not touch percussion equipment.

D – Do Your Best Everyday: Be the best version of yourself you can be. Practice daily and set up quickly. Ask lots of questions.

The band room is the most expensive room on campus. Please encourage your students to protect themselves, others and our equipment by following these procedures:

1. Students enter after greeting the teacher, proceed to locker to get instrument.
2. Students put together instrument, returning case to their locker afterward. They should grab all music and binder.
3. Students will sit in their chair, and begin assembling their instrument. Reed players should soak reeds. All students should do oiling and maintenance at this time.
4. Backpacks go under chair. Keep aisles clear.
5. Students may warm-up appropriately on instrument.
6. Mr. Grzyb will step on the podium 4 minutes after the bell rings signaling the start of rehearsal.
7. Students will raise hands with questions as needed.
8. At end of rehearsal, Mr. Grzyb will signal the end of class. Students should not pack up before this time.
9. All students will clean their area around their chair after their rehearsal.
10. Students will clean and pack up instrument in case, and return to their chair for the bell to ring.
11. First period band sets up chairs and stands, Fifth period band puts away chairs and stands.

Failure to observe our collective expectations will result in a buddy room referral as well as a zero for a student's daily classroom grade. Any repeated failure will result in an after-school detention.

Financial Philosophy

Band is an activity that requires a degree of financial commitment (instrument rentals, purchase of supplies, private lessons, uniform, etc). It is our philosophy that NO student will be denied membership in the organization based on inability to meet this commitment.

If your family needs financial assistance, please contact me directly. I work hard to secure other avenues to help support those families in need (especially since I come from one of those families).

Band Uniform

There will be two main uniforms for performances. I will refer to these uniforms as uniform A and B. These are as follows.

Uniform A	Uniform B
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black Band Polo (\$15 paid to CMS Band)• Black Dress Pants/slacks/skirt• Black socks/hose• Black shoes (dress type shoes/flats)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black band polo• Jeans (free of holes, no shorts)• Tennis shoes
This will be used for all concerts, festival and high visibility events	This will be used for parades, elementary concerts and marching band events.

- All students will wear black pants (dark, solid black uniform style or dress pants only—gray, navy blue, or faded are not acceptable) or long black skirts (past the knee, as we play on stages). Please do not wear jeans, leggings, jeggings, athletic pants, sweatpants, capris, shorts, or short skirts above the knee.
- Nice black shoes: Dress shoes are preferred, but shoes must be all black without other colors/stripes. Please no flip-flops, slippers, or athletic slides. Please also wear tall black socks to cover the gap between shoes and pants. Girls wearing dress shoes that don't require socks do not need to wear socks.
- If you cannot meet these expectations due to financial reasons, you must contact Mr. Grzyb immediately so that assistance can be arranged. Goodwill and Savers are great places to find affordable pants and shoes. Payless and Rack Room Shoes are great choices for affordable new shoes.
- No student should stay home from a concert due to not having a band uniform. Please don't be afraid to ask for help. The sooner we know what's going on, the more likely we will be able to provide assistance.

Grading Policy

Grades are broken down as follows:

A – 90-100%

B – 80 – 89%

C – 70 – 79%

D – 60 – 69%

F – 0 – 59%

Furthermore, band grades are weighted as follows:

Assessment (80%):

Performances – 40%

Playing Tests – 20%

Daily music assessments (individual checks, down the row, etc) – 20%

Practice (20%):

Daily rehearsal grade – 10%

Practice Logs / Home Assignments – 10%

Performances – Events listed on the band calendar are required. Your grade is based on participation, preparation and proper demonstration of performer/audience etiquette.

Playing Tests – Students will be assigned a short excerpt of music to perform in class or over google classroom. This is a performance class. Students need to get used to performing in front of each other.

Daily Music Assessments – Similar to playing tests, these are on a daily basis.

Daily rehearsal grade – showing up to rehearsal with music, instrument and with clear evidence of having practiced since the previous class. This also includes effort and participation in class.

Practice Logs/Home assignments: Students are expected to practice a minimum of 140 minutes (20 minutes per day). Students will (very rarely) have a take home assignment.

Attendance Policy

As a band, our success is dependent on the efforts of each individual member. As such, performances listed on the calendar are **required**. In the event an event must be missed, please contact the director as soon as possible. Here are some guidelines.

Absences may be excused at director's discretion. Such absences may include illness, family emergencies, religious observance, travel planned before the calendar is sent out (though you have the calendar now!).

Unexcused absences include sports practices (I work extremely hard with coaches to find a solution to benefit everyone, and we have moved all our concerts to the evening) doctor's appointments (unless it is a specialist/there is no other time to meet), lack of transportation (we have families who live all over the south valley, and can easily arrange a carpool), not having part of the band uniform, deciding not to perform for any reason. Please plan ahead as the calendar is sent home at the start of the year.

Rehearsals may be added to the calendar (in events such as band qualifying for state or other competitions, or if a rehearsal is needed. Students will be informed at least two weeks in front of the scheduled date. If a date is added or changed less than two weeks in advance, I will contact families to discuss solutions for potential conflicts.

If you anticipate an absence, please contact me immediately. I am always willing to discuss your circumstances and work through a solution that benefits everyone.

After School Rehearsals

Due to the nature of our new school schedule, we need to have a limited number of after school rehearsals. Each group will be responsible for three to four after-school rehearsals (no more than one per quarter) to allow all members to combine to rehearse before the concert. These are required events.

We must have everyone at these rehearsals to ensure we work the percussion parts with the wind/brass parts (since the two sections are in separate classes). Beginning band needs to combine brass, woodwind and percussion classes.

Required Materials

Everyone:

- ½ - 1 inch binder (Black is preferred, as it blends in with the stands, which will prevent distractions during performances) **This should be separate from your AVID binder.**
 - 1 pack of 5 tab dividers
 - 10 clear plastic page protectors.
- 1 mechanical pencil (we don't have a pencil sharpener)
- 2 highlighters (1 yellow, 1 other color)
- 1 tuner/metronome with a tuner clip (Korg TM60, look on amazon for a special deal including a tuner and a clip). This can last through college if you take care of it.
- **Instrument in working condition**
- **All items from your specific instrument list (Sent home with student first day).**

Beginning Band:

- *Traditions of Excellence* Book 1 by Bruce Pearson (DO NOT GET STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE). Percussion does not purchase a book.
- 1 pack of index cards (25 minimum, needed by day 2 of school)
- 1 handheld mirror (1 dollar at dollar tree).

Concert Band:

- *Traditions of Excellence* Book 2 by Bruce Pearson (DO NOT GET STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE). Percussion does not purchase a book.
- 1 pack of index cards (25 minimum, needed by day 2 of school)
- 1 handheld mirror (1 dollar at dollar tree).

Wind Ensemble

- 8 Dollars paid to CMS Band (or cash) for a subscription to SMARTMUSIC. This is instead of a method book.

Braces

Many students during the course of middle school need to get braces or have other orthodontic work done. For many instruments, and to varying degrees, braces can impede playing ability. It can be a frustrating time for the student. If your child is going to get braces, please speak to me first if possible so that I can properly address the issue with him/her. Because orthodontia affects playing ability for many students, please try to schedule appointments so that they do not create conflicts with performances when possible. For example, DO NOT get the braces put on for at least TWO WEEKS before a concert. DO NOT get braces tightened for at least TWO DAYS before a concert. Your attention to our schedule will ensure that your child is able to perform to the best of his/her ability on those important days.

Illness

Sometimes students assume that they cannot play an instrument if they have a cold or sore throat when, for the most part, playing an instrument while ill will not add to the symptoms. Each student is expected to play to the best of their ability unless experiencing severe pain or trouble breathing. If a student is too ill to play but not too ill to be in school, I must have a SIGNED NOTE from the parent for that particular day. For that day ONLY, the note will excuse the student from playing, but not from participating. Students can still participate in learning through fingering along and listening.

Private Lessons

It is recommended that every student consider taking private lessons. Nothing can take the place of this kind of individualized expert attention and guidance. I can recommend excellent private teachers in our community, so please don't hesitate to ask. You may also wish to contact any local music store and they will provide you with a list of qualified instructors. Note: Private lessons are not just for beginners. They are also for students who are more serious about their instruments, want to improve quickly, and play more challenging music.

Parent Involvement

Parents are encouraged and invited to support the band program. Parents can support the band by encouraging their child's musical growth. Encourage your child to practice each day at home. Ask him/her to perform for you or the family. Talk about good rehearsal etiquette. Attend your child's concerts and music events. Take your child to concerts in the community like the Tempe Wind Ensemble, Arizona Wind Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, or ASU performances. Accompanying your children to a concert or musical production will encourage them to stay active in the band program throughout their middle and high school years, and throughout life. Parent volunteers can often be used to file and sort music, record concerts, tie Wind Ensemble ties before concerts, help with fundraising, etc. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Grzyb. With everyone working together, we can maintain a successful program!

Jazz Band

Jazz band rehearses once a week on Friday afternoon from 3:30 – 4:30pm. I will make a list of interested students and set concerts and opportunities based on interest. Students should expect approximately 3 extra performances throughout the year if performing in jazz band.

6th Graders may join us in 7th grade

Concerts

Each ensemble performs in multiple concerts per year. Concert start times are listed on the band calendar. All students are required to report to the check-in location **45 minutes before their concert's start time**. For instance, wind ensemble concerts start at 7:00pm, so students will arrive no later than 6:15pm. All students must have their music, their instrument and their uniform all ready to go. Please plan to eat before this call time.

Beginning Band Calendar

Please note: The dates presented are as accurate as possible. There may be, however, district and community events that may force a change. Mr. Grzyb will notify parents of any date changes as soon as they arise. If additional rehearsals and performances come up, Mr. Grzyb will notify parents and students at least 2 weeks in advance.

Download our calendar on Google Calendar at: <http://bit.ly/CMSBBAND>

<i>Tuesday, August 6 - 5 – 7:00 pm</i>	<i>Instrument Rental Night Mountain Pointe High School Band Room</i>
Monday, December 9 - 3:30 – 4:30pm	After School Rehearsal Centennial middle school band room
Tuesday, December 10 - 7:00pm (6:15 call)	Winter Concert Mountain Pointe High School
Thursday, February 27 - 3:30 – 4:30pm	After School Rehearsal Centennial middle school band room
Tuesday, March 3 - 7:00pm (6:15 call)	Spring Concert (with Esperanza Mallet Band) Mountain Pointe High School
Monday, April 27 - 3:30 – 4:30pm	After School Rehearsal Centennial middle school band room
Tuesday, May 5 - 7:00pm (6:15 call)	Finale Concert Mountain Pointe High School
Thursday, May 7 - 7:00pm (6:15 call)	Percussion Ensemble Concert Mountain Pointe High School (Required for all percussion)

Other Dates to be added (potentially):

- Rehearsals before California tour if needed.
- Fundraising dates
- Jazz band dates