

JUNCTION CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS



2019-2020 Parent/Student Handbook

Locker Number: _____

Combination: _____

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Welcome

To JCMS Bands Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 year of Junction City Middle School Bands! We are very excited and thankful for the opportunity to work with your students and provide them with the rewarding and exciting experience of music-making. By the end of the year, your students will develop a deeper understanding and love for music. And you, the parents, will undoubtedly see in your students the positive impact that a musical life can bring.

It is our goal that this experience will be positive for all involved, while encouraging and helping every single student reach high levels of achievement - perhaps, more than your student ever thought possible. Active and positive parental involvement will also be essential to the progress of your students. Even if you have never touched an instrument before, simply supporting and encouraging your students can go a long way in their musical development.

In this handbook you will find the guidelines and procedures for various aspects of the program that will ensure a smooth year for your family. If you or your student ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us - we are more than happy to answer any and all questions.

Thank you again for choosing to join the JCMS Band family or to continue your participation with us - Go Wildcats!

Jair Miertschin

Director

Kirsten Votaw

Director

Philosophy and Mission

At Junction City Middle School Bands we believe that all students deserve the opportunity to have a well-rounded education, and that music is a vital aspect of that experience. Active participation in music-making will encourage students to be more educated citizens and consumers of one of the most important components of our culture - Music.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- ❑ Generate musical ideas for various purposes and contexts
- ❑ Select and develop musical ideas for defined purposes and contexts
- ❑ Evaluate and refine selected musical ideas to create musical work that meets appropriate criteria
- ❑ Share creative musical work that conveys intent, demonstrates craftsmanship, and exhibits originality.
- ❑ Select varied musical works to present based on interest, knowledge, technical skill, and context
- ❑ Analyze the structure and context of varied musical works and their implications for performance
- ❑ Develop personal interpretations that consider creators' intent
- ❑ Evaluate and refine personal and ensemble performances, individually or in collaboration with others
- ❑ Perform expressively, with appropriate interpretation and technical accuracy, and in a manner appropriate to the audience and context
- ❑ Choose music appropriate for specific purposes and contexts
- ❑ Analyze how the structure and context of varied musical works inform the response
- ❑ Support an interpretation of a musical work that reflects the creators'/performers' expressive intent
- ❑ Support personal evaluation of musical works and performance(s) based on analysis, interpretation, and established criteria
- ❑ Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make music
- ❑ Relate musical ideas and works with varied context to deepen understanding

-National Music Standards-

By Creating, Performing, Responding, and Connecting, students will become well-rounded, educated musicians, and advance to the highest levels of performance and musicality.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all performances - any attendance problems will be dealt with on an individual basis. Any absences from all or part of a rehearsal will require a written excuse from parents or a doctor giving an explanation or reason for the absence. Excuses should be turned in, in advance of the absence when possible. Alternate assignments may be provided to make up the credit, ONLY if the absence is excused. Students with an unexcused absence will a zero in the gradebook for that function/rehearsal. Valid excuses include illness and family emergencies. A calendar of the entire year's band activities will be provided early in the school year so that there is adequate time to plan schedules and resolve conflicts.

Daily Rehearsal Expectations

- Each student is expected to be on time, if not early, to all rehearsals and performances.
- Enter the bandroom quietly and with the expectation to have a productive rehearsal.
- Check the board for special announcements and the day's agenda.
- The student is expected to have their instrument, music, and pencil ready prior to starting all rehearsals.
- If the student's instrument is in the shop for repair, they must bring a note from home.
- Students should behave considerately to whomever is on the podium, whether it be the director or a guest of the ensemble.
- Students should strive to always have a positive attitude and to improve in all areas of musicianship.
- Students should treat school owned instruments like their own. Any loss or damage of the instrument will be the student's liability and will be assessed accordingly.
- There are three (3) places your instrument should be (school owned or privately owned):
 - In your hands
 - Safely placed on/by student's chair
 - In your instrument locker
- Gum, food, or drink (other than water) are not allowed in the band room, unless authorized by the directors.
- Students will keep the bandroom and practice areas clean and orderly. All trash is to be deposited in one of the multiple wastebaskets in the band room.
- Electronic devices may be used during rehearsals ONLY if directed by the instructors. If parents need to contact their student for an emergency, they may call the main office.

Practice Logs

Students will maintain a practice log for every week that will be turned in each Friday. Students will indicate the time spent on individual practice each night for a required, daily average of 20 minutes, six days a week for a total of 120 minutes. Students can receive extra credit for practice beyond 120 minutes. Practice logs will not be accepted without a parent signature.

Grading Policy

All grades will be based on the following criteria; periodic playing tests, quizzes, attitude in rehearsals and at performances, attendance at music functions, homework and other assignments announced by the director.

- ❑ 20% - Practice Logs/Theory/History Written Assignments
- ❑ 40% - Assessments (Playing, Theory, History)
- ❑ 40% - Concert Participation

Instrument Needs

A supply of school-owned instruments are available for student use at no cost. Keep in mind that most of these instruments are many years old and have been used by many students before - we recommend that after 6th grade, parents rent an instrument for their student. There are many affordable options available through local music stores and online. Beware - If the price of an instrument looks too good to be true, it probably is! You get what you pay for... Please note that purchasing an instrument is a big investment in your student - if you require any assistance in making the right decision for your student, the directors are always a great resource to lead you in the right direction.

Also available are Renting and Rent-to-Own options through local music shops. Instruments need to be properly cleaned and maintained by the students who check them out. Any damages caused by negligence on the part of the student will result in the student being charged for any repairs and maintenance needed to return the instrument to its best working condition. Instrument-specific care and maintenance instructions and resources will be provided to each student at the beginning of the year.

Lockers/Storage

The directors will assign instrument lockers and locks. Lockers must be kept clean and orderly. If misused, the privilege of storing personal items in an instrumental locker may be revoked. Students should have their name and phone number or Junction City Middle School's phone number fastened to the outside and/or inside of their instrument case - luggage tags work great for this. We also recommend keeping a record of the make and serial number of the instrument in the event that it is lost.

Performance Event Guidelines

- Make sure all concert dress parts are clean and fitted properly.
- Everyone should be professional while in a performance setting.
- ALWAYS be on time, which means arrive 10-15 minutes early to the specified call time to ensure that instruments and music are ready for large ensemble warm-up.
- We are very good at what we do because we can focus when we need to.
- Stay well rested, fed, and hydrated.
- Always have all your materials on you or close enough that you can get them quickly.

Performance Attire

Whether on stage or seated in the auditorium, concert dress is to remain intact until the conclusion of a concert. If a student fails to wear the concert dress, he or she may not be allowed to play the concert, and a lower performance grade will result.

Beginning Band

- Band Polo
- Black Pants
- Black Dress
Shoes/Flats

Concert/Symphonic Ladies

- Black top/blouse
- Black dress
pants/slacks
- Black closed-toed
shoes/flats

Concert/Symphonic Men

- Solid black,
button-down dress
shirt
- Black dress
pants/slacks
- Black belt
- Black dress shoes
- Black socks

Concert Etiquette

- While in the audience, one should remain seated at all times. Please wait until there is a break between selections to leave or enter the auditorium.
- While a group is performing, there should be no talking or moving around as to avoid distracting the performing ensemble.
- At the end of each selection, it is proper to show appreciation to the performing group by applauding - whistling, yelling, or the stomping of feet are not acceptable at formal performances.
- Cell phones must be set to silent and put away for the entirety of the concert.

Travel Code of Conduct

Students who represent Junction City Middle School on out-of-town trips are expected to maintain very high standards in every respect at all times. They are expected to attend and be on time for all sessions and activities scheduled for them. In the event of overnight trips, they are expected to be in their rooms at the times designated by their sponsors. Each student will be responsible to one or more faculty sponsors who will supervise the activities of the student for the trip. Negligence in attending sessions, in meeting curfew requirements, or in failing to maintain our standards of conduct may make it necessary for the sponsor to send the student home at his/her own expense. Student conduct on school-related trips: Self-discipline is the key element for a pleasant experience for both the sponsor and the student when the student is on a school-related trip. Students who are involved in a serious disciplinary offense on a school-related trip will face disciplinary action which may include one or more of the following:

- ❑ The student will be sent home from the trip at the parents' expense.
- ❑ The student will be held liable for damages to property.
- ❑ The student may be removed from this school activity as well as other school co-curricular activities.
- ❑ The student may be placed in In-School-Suspension (ISS), Off-Campus-Suspension, or Alternative Education Placement.

Students' attire during school activities outside the school day should be in good taste. If there is any question of taste, the director's decision is final.

All adults on trips serve as sponsors. Students will be expected to treat them with respect at all times. In the event a parent sponsor gives needed supervision, band students must honor that with utmost respect.

GENERAL - Even though you will not always have a band shirt on, people will find out where you are from. You have the opportunity to make a tremendous name for Junction City, USD 475, Junction City Middle School, and for yourself. Be courteous and polite at all times. There is no way we can anticipate every possible scenario, so we ask for good judgement. Please use common sense.

RULE OF THUMB - If there is any question in your mind as to whether you should do something or not - Don't Do It! It is better to be safe than sorry. We are confident that there will be no problems. *If we anticipated a problem, we would not travel.*

Students wishing to arrive or leave an out-of-town event with their parents must notify the directors in writing with a parent signature prior to the event. Permission will be granted or denied based on the circumstances of the occasion.

Private Lessons

Students are encouraged, but not required, to participate in private lessons. While the JCMS Band instructors have an extensive knowledge and expertise to take students to a proficient level on their instrument, nothing can replace the individual attention and instruction achieved by studying with a person who is considered a professional on their instrument. If your student is interested in taking private lessons, contact the directors, who can assist in finding a private instructor for your student. Lessons are scheduled on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Prices for private instruction will vary depending on the instructor and the length of the lessons, usually 20-30 minutes.

Finances

It is the philosophy of JCMS Bands that no students should be denied the experience to participate in music due to financial hardships. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the directors.

Communication

All students should sign up for their respective grade's *Remind* group. The *Remind App* allows the directors to instantly message all students with JCMS Bands announcements and reminders of upcoming events and assignments. All students under 13 years of age will be required to provide a parent or guardian email address. The parent or guardian can then sign up to receive all messages that the students receive, as well as reply directly to the directors - students will not have this capability.

Instructions to join *Remind* will be provided during the first week of the school year. In addition to *Remind*, we can always be reached at the following email addresses:

Jair Miertschin - Director
jairholguinruiz@usd475.org

Kirsten Votaw - Assoc. Director
kirstenvotaw@usd475.org

Amber Brown - Band Office Aide
amberbrown@usd475.org

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING FORMS (Pgs. 9-12) AND RETURN
BY MONDAY, AUGUST 19th.

STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

STUDENT NAME (as it will appear in concert programs)

INSTRUMENT _____

PARENT NAME(S) _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

PREFERRED PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Will you student be taking private lessons this year? YES _____ NO _____

Is there anything you think we should know about your child (extremely shy, medical condition, etc.)?

INSTRUMENT RENTAL AGREEMENT FORM

ENSEMBLE: Beginning Band Concert Band Symphonic Band

STUDENT NAME (print) _____ ID# _____

INSTRUMENT _____

MAKE _____ SERIAL # _____

ESTIMATED VALUE \$_____ CONDITION: NEW GOOD FAIR POOR

NOTES:

We agree to be responsible for the school instrument listed above. It is our responsibility to maintain the current condition of the instrument and case listed above. We understand that repair due to natural "wear and tear" of the instrument will be handled by Junction City Middle School. We also understand that any damage or loss caused by misuse, abuse, or negligence on the part of the student will be the responsibility of the student and/or parent/guardian. Each child needs his/her own contract. Instruments may not leave the school until this contract is received. We also understand that my student will be required to provide his/her own reeds, book, other maintenance supplies, etc.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

TRAVEL/MEDICAL CONSENT FORM

I hereby give consent for my student to travel with the Junction City Middle School Bands in any and all of the performance events on transportation provided by Geary County USD 475.

Student name _____

List any known food/drug allergies _____

List medical conditions (asthma, contacts, etc.) _____

Non-Prescription / Over-the-counter (OTC) Medication Authorization

If available, a First Aid Kit, with approved OTC items, may be provided for minor ailments.

_____ I do not give consent to staff to administer any non-prescription medications

_____ By initialing, I give consent to JCMS Bands Staff to administer non-prescription medications to my students as indicated below:

Please initial each medication that can be administered:

_____ Acetaminophen _____ Ibuprofen _____ Antihistamine/Decongestant

_____ Sore Throat Lozenges _____ Antacids _____ Anti-Diarrheal

_____ Electrolyte _____ Menstrual Pain Reliever

I hereby certify that my student has no known drug allergies _____ (initial).

Prescription Authorization

I request that JCMS Bands Staff administer medication/s listed below to my student according to the physician's instructions. I agree to furnish an adequate amount of medication in the original container at the time of travel.

Medication/s: _____

Note: Medications may be updated/added at the time of travel and additional forms may be attached as needed. Medications will be administered according to the physician's instruction on original container.

.....

Parent/Guardian Name & Signature _____

Phone (W) _____ (C) _____

2nd Emergency Contact Name _____

Phone (W) _____ (C) _____

HANDBOOK SIGNATURES

We have read the entirety of the contents of this handbook and agree to abide by the guidelines, regulations, and expectations. All parents will be notified promptly if any adjustments need to be made to the handbook during the 2019-2020 school year.

Student Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date _____

Date _____

Additional Questions or Comments: