

# Ashland-Greenwood

***2006-2007 Handbook***

# Middle School Band

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The Ashland-Greenwood Middle School Band, through public performances and effective rehearsals, instills a sense of accomplishment in each student. Students are taught musical skills, analytical problem solving, working within a team-oriented framework, and social skills including giving and responding to constructive criticism. In addition, the band fosters a positive relationship between Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools and the communities it serves.

## **I. Expectations**

Expectation is a two-way street. The director has a right to expect certain behaviors and character traits from the students. Likewise, the students have the right to expect excellence from their director.

**A. What Students can expect from the Director.** Students have the right to expect continued excellence from the band director. The director will provide music and rehearsals designed to educate students, and he will bring his full effort and knowledge to each rehearsal. The director will be accessible to all students, and will work with students regardless of skill level.

**B. What the Director expects from Students.** By choosing to enroll in band, students agree that they desire to participate with a group of motivated individuals working together for the betterment of the organization. Behavior of band students should support the goals of learning about music, fostering a positive team-oriented environment, and strengthening the band organization.

## **II. Equipment**

Each student is responsible for his or her own equipment. Students are expected to provide their own instrument, along with all necessary accessories (reeds, oils, etc.). Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools has some instruments available for student use; however, students using these instruments need to fill out the proper paperwork and are responsible for their own accessories. All instruments should be kept in working order. Any instrument malfunction should be brought to the director's attention as soon as possible, either at the beginning or end of the next band period. Each student is expected to provide for himself a copy of Essential Elements 2000 Books 2 & 3 to use during band class.

## **III. Rehearsals**

Due to the intricate nature of musical performance, it is essential that all rehearsals be nearly absence-free. Band members should be ready for rehearsal—instrument assembled, music and pencil out, in seat—as soon following the tardy bell as possible. Though band will practice in a variety of settings during the year, where ever rehearsal is becomes the classroom and normal classroom rules apply. Students are expected to keep excess talking to a minimal level, follow the director's instructions quickly and efficiently, respect other students, and work together toward a successful band. Food, drink (with the exception of water), candy, or gum are not allowed during band class due to the damage that can be caused to instruments.

## **IV. Chair Placement**

Chair placements will be held in the first three weeks of school, as well as periodically throughout the year. Each playing test is a new chair placement. These are a way of making sure that students are playing a part that is suitable for them, as well as an avenue for the director to track individual students' progress. If a student feels that he is seated too low, he can challenge for chair advancement. Each student is only allowed one challenge per week, and a student can challenge only the person seated immediately in front of him. In a challenge, both students are assigned the same line or passage to practice for live performance in front of the director. Immediately following each student's performance, the director will tell both involved students the results.

## **V. Performances**

The Ashland-Greenwood Middle School Band is, at its core, an educational ensemble geared for performance. Therefore, student participation is expected at all performances. Any conflict with a scheduled performance should be brought to the director's attention as soon as is practical. Absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis, and extra assignments may be assigned as make-up work. Missing a performance without a valid reason will affect a student's grade in band.

**A. Valid reasons to miss a performance include**, but are not limited to, the following: family wedding, funeral, sickness (a doctor's note may be required), family vacation.

**B. Invalid reasons to miss a performance include**, but are not limited to, the following: working, babysitting, overslept, homework, spending time with friends, going on a date.

The band performance schedule is released as early in the year as is possible in order to avoid student conflicts. However, conflicts do arise, and most can be worked out once the director is made aware of the situation in advance.

The Middle School Band will perform four concerts this year, one in each quarter. The concert dates are:

- Tuesday, October 24
- Monday, December 18
- Monday, March 12
- Monday, May 7

*Please mark your calendars now in order to avoid conflicts!* Each of these concerts will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Ashland-Greenwood High School Gym.

In addition, the band will be attending a Middle School Music Contest, to be held sometime during the second semester. Further information concerning this performance date will be sent home at a later time.

## VI. Grading

Band meets during the school day; therefore, band students will receive a grade based not only on their attitude and attendance, but also on academic work that is assigned. A quarterly grade has three components: Daily attendance, Performance Attendance, and Academic Work.

**A. Daily Work.** Each student will receive one daily grade each week. Prior to rehearsal, the director will choose at random the names of students to receive a daily attendance grade that day. Students will not know who is getting graded on a given day. Daily grades are based on preparedness, attitude, and effort during class. If a student is absent when his name is chosen for a grade, another name will be chosen instead and the absent student will be graded upon returning to class (*7 points each / 33% of quarterly grade*).

**B. Performance Attendance.** Percentage of performances attended in a quarter. Each performance counts equally in a quarter, but may be weighed differently if the number of performances varies between quarters. Students with valid reasons for missing a major performance have the opportunity to earn credit for the performance through make-up assignments arranged in advance. Students who have an unexcused absence from a major performance will not be allowed to earn back any of the credit (*33% of quarterly grade*).

**C. Academic Work.** The final component of a quarterly grade is the average of any assignments given during band class during the course of a quarter. These assignments may include scale tests, playing tests, memorization checks, writing assessments, and any other music enrichment activity as assigned by the director (*33% of quarterly grade*).

## VII. Membership Contract (return to Mr. Jaworski by August 24)

I (first and last name) \_\_\_\_\_ hereby affirm that I have read and thoroughly understand the Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools band handbook. I further affirm that I will abide by the rules, regulations, and intent of said handbook, and understand the penalties for not doing so. I understand that an unexcused absence from a performance will seriously affect my grade in band. I have had all questions concerning the content of this handbook answered and will do my best to live up to the intent of this contract.

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I/We have read the Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools band handbook and have discussed it with my/our child. I/We will do our best to encourage him/her to abide by the rules and regulations of the band as expressed in the band handbook.

Parent/guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_