

6TH GRADE BAND HANDBOOK

2009-2010

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DIRECTORS

WHAT IS DIFFERENT IN 6TH GRADE BAND?

6TH grade band is different from 5th grade in a few ways. The most obvious is instead of just having band on Tuesdays and Thursdays, you will now have band on **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays**. The times are also a little earlier than last year, by about 15 minutes.

We will also be playing more music that is not in our book. This music is called “sheet music” and it is usually written with many different parts being played by different sections, instead of all sections playing one or two parts like last year.

Some of you may want to switch instruments this year. Some of the typical transfers in 6th grade are to Oboe, Bassoon, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, French Horn, Baritone, and Tuba. All except for Alto Saxophone are instruments that can be provided by the school district if they are something you would like to switch to. If you are interested in transferring to a different instrument, we have application forms in the band room that need to be filled out, signed by the student’s parent and one of the band teachers before the transfer can take place. This is to ensure that the student should be transferring to an instrument that they can be successful on, and not jumping from instrument to instrument without really learning anything.

Most of the year we will not be split up into the two groups (woodwinds/percussion and brass) the way we were last year but instead we will spend more time in a “full band” rehearsal. There may be some students who are new to band this year, so for the first few months they will be split from the main group until they feel comfortable enough to join the rest of the band. These new students will most likely not perform with the full band for the first concert of the year, but should be able to join the rest of the band by the second and third concert.

BOOKS

We will be using two of the same books for band that we did last year. **“Do It! Play in Band”** book 1 by James O. Froseth is the book we played out of last year, and we will be using this book again for warm-ups and review. If you don't have yours anymore, you will need to get another one. . We will NOT be using the workbooks we have used in the past. We will instead be giving each student a folder to keep worksheets that we will hand out once every two weeks. The students will also be keeping a **“practice diary”** in these folders. Studies have shown that playing every day is very important for the development of the muscles used to produce a quality sound for young players. The studies show that only 10 to 20 minutes of practice a day is all that is needed.

CONCERTS

The 6th grade band will be performing three concerts this year.

| Performance | Date | Time | Location |
|---|---|------|--------------------------|
| Extravabandza | Wednesday, October 28 th | 7:30 | Waverly HS Auditorium |
| 5 th and 6 th grade Winter Concert | Wednesday, February 10 th | 7:30 | Waverly HS Auditorium |
| 5 th -8 th grade Spring Concert | Wednesday, May 12 th | 7:30 | Waverly HS Gymnasium |

We ask that students dress nicely for these performances, wearing clothing like what they would were to a wedding or church. We ask that they do not wear jeans, athletic shoes, or t-shirts with writing on them for the performances.

OPEN HOUSE

We will be having a band parent meeting at the end of the Waverly East Open House which starts at 6:00 on September 15, 2009. This meeting is mostly for students who are new to band, but you should also know that Marshall Music will be there with books and other supplies to buy for your instruments, such as reeds or valve oil, as well as instruments to rent or purchase for your convenience.

GRADING

Grades are determined mainly by classroom participation. In order for students to learn how to play correctly, it is important that they get the most out of the short time we have them in class every week. That is why it is extremely important that they remember to bring their instrument and books to class every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Having your instrument with you is just the beginning. It is just as important that they participate fully while in class, paying attention to what we are asking them to do and doing their best every day. We will have homework assignments and practice diaries due every other week, as well as playing tests weekly. The playing tests are there to make sure the students are practicing at home what we are working on in class. Since we only see the students for a short time every week, it is important that they spend some quality time at home every night to strengthen their muscles used to play their instrument.

Concert attendance is of course very important as well. It is a shame for us to work hard to prepare for a performance and not have the chance to show what we have learned. Having someone missing on a concert will also change the way the entire band sounds, especially if there are not a lot of people in your section. Because of this, if you miss a concert without a good reason, your grade will drop by 20%. This will make a big difference in what grade you receive in band, so be sure to not miss a performance.

Band Boosters

The Band Boosters are an organization made up of band parents who provide support for the band classes. Specifically, they will be there at our concerts to help, they provide money for some instruments and equipment for all of the band classes, and they also pay for our end of the year parties, where they provide pizza and drinks for all of the 5th through 8th grade band students. They also oversee accounts set up in each student's name through the school into which money that students raise through fundraisers can be deposited to pay for later things such as Band Camps and Band Trips. If you are interested in helping, please go to waverlyband.org for information on fundraisers and accounts. The band boosters also send out a newsletter a few times a year by mail or email. Please see the last page of this packet to sign up for a newsletter.

(Return to Mr. Gorbe or Mr. Larzelere by September 18, 2009)

Name of Student _____ grade _____ date _____

1. I understand the importance of practicing my instrument and will ensure that the music I am responsible for will be properly prepared for rehearsal.
2. I will be on time for band and be prepared with my instrument, music and a pencil.
3. I will not chew gum during rehearsals. I understand that gum can damage my instrument, affect my embouchure, articulation and breathing and presents the risk of choking.
4. I will not talk during rehearsal. I understand that talking disturbs others, keeps the conductor from doing his/her job and prevents the band from becoming the very best.
5. I will label my instrument case with my name, address, and phone number. I will take care of my instrument, not allowing anyone else to play it and handle all musical instruments responsibly.
6. I understand that in order for the band to be the best it can be that I must cooperate, treat teachers and other students with respect and follow the rules set by Waverly East Intermediate.

We have seen and gone over together the following in this packet:

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| _____ What is different in 6 th grade band? | _____ Books |
| _____ Concerts | _____ Open House |
| _____ Grading | _____ Band Boosters |

Student's signature

Parent's signature

STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Student's name _____ grade _____

Parent's Names _____

Home address _____

Telephone Home _____

Cell _____

Other _____

If you are interested in transferring to a different instrument this year, please list your choices below in order of interest.

NEWSLETTER

_____ Please email the Band Booster Newsletter to the following email addresses:

EMAIL: _____

EMAIL: _____

_____ Please mail a printed copy of the Band Booster Newsletter to the following addresses:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____