

# **BAND HANDBOOK 2009-2010**

## **WAVERLY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**DIRECTOR: MR. DAVID V. GORBE**

### **Mission Statement**

The Waverly Bands are dedicated to **Musical excellence, personal enjoyment, and communal pride**. We believe in **Discipline, Honesty, and Respect** for our leaders and each other. With a **positive attitude, personal dedication** and a **unified spirit**, we will develop a collective **responsibility** to one another, our school community, and the world around us.

### **Course Objectives**

- To provide each band member with a workable knowledge of music so she/he may enjoy, understand, and participate in the aesthetic experience relayed through music making.
- To help students mature socially as individuals, become good citizens, and ensure that all students are provided a rewarding experience.
- To provide the highest degree of music performance at school, community functions, and special events, enabling the group to be a symbol of excellence and pride in both our school and the Waverly community.
- To continually broaden the musical tastes of the students and the community through the performance of fine wind band literature.
- To promote the growth of the student through creativity, excellence and camaraderie.

## **CONCERT BAND**

Concert band is considered part of the total instrumental music experience. The joy of music is experienced most fully when shared with others both in the ensemble participation and with an audience. Students will have the opportunity to perform pieces of the highest musical quality for the sheer enjoyment of playing such pieces as well as to further develop their skills as musicians.

**8th grade band** will rehearse Monday through Friday during 6th hour, and **7th grade band** will rehearse Monday through Friday during 7th hour.

## **JAZZ BAND**

There will be a **Middle School Jazz Band** again this year conducted by Mr. Gorbe. All wind and percussion players must be members of one of the concert bands to participate in the Jazz Band. Membership is offered to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students who would like to join.

**Jazz Band** rehearsals are Tuesday and Thursday after school (2:55-4:00) in the Middle School Band room. Participation in Jazz Band can be used to fulfill the **Outside Experience** portion of the student's grade in band class.

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

**All** students should develop their musical skills and are strongly encouraged to take private lessons. The private lessons will allow the student to work with a specialist and proceed at his/her own pace as well as focus on developing weak areas and building on strengths and special talents.

Students who elect to take private lessons may either do so on their own through area teachers or places like Marshall Music or MSU's Community Music School, or may be able to take lessons through Waverly, if we have lesson teachers available. Contact Mr. Gorbe at [dagorb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dagorb@sbcglobal.net) or [dgorbe@waverlyk12.net](mailto:dgorbe@waverlyk12.net) for more information. Private lessons can also count as **Outside Experience** (see p. 5).

## **BAND BOOSTERS**

The Waverly Band Boosters are a group of band parents that provide support for the bands by helping with concerts and fundraisers. There are many opportunities for interested parents to help. To find out how, please go to [waverlyband.org](http://waverlyband.org).

The Boosters also help set up a student activities account with the school that allows students to raise money through fundraising that may be used for band trips or band camp. The Boosters also publish a Band Booster Newsletter a few times a year. These are primarily sent out through email, although hard copies can be mailed to homes of those who request it. Please make sure to fill out the form at the end of this packet to ensure that you will receive a newsletter.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

During the course of the year opportunities may come up to perform at special school events, festivals or field trips, which may be educational and fun. Information will be sent at the appropriate time regarding these events.

## PRACTICE

Daily practice is expected and will be checked with a “**practice check**” as well as a check of a “**practice diary**”. 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. During this time, students should be focused on improving difficult sections that are being worked on in class. A “**practice check**” will be given every one or two weeks to ensure that the performance of the necessary pieces is progressing. This will consist of the student playing what has been assigned for practice, and I will then give the student areas for improvement, as well as grade them on their progress.

The “**practice diary**” will include a section where the student will write what is to be practiced, and how much improvement was made on this section. Students will be asked to grade their performance of that section of music when they start, and what grade they would give themselves at the end of the practice. This will then be checked by me and graded as homework.

## REHEARSALS

There is an old saying in music: “You are only as good as your practice,” which means good rehearsals are necessary for a good performance. Our main consideration then needs to be the best use of what limited time we have to rehearse. If we follow these steps, we will be successful.

- ♪ Be on time and prepared with instrument, music and pencil.
- ♪ Upon arrival students will assemble their instrument, take their assigned seats, put music in the specified order for the day's rehearsal and wait for rehearsal to **begin by two minutes after the bell.**
- ♪ Talking will not be allowed during rehearsal whether the entire band is playing or just one section or individual. It is vital that individual sections be allowed to receive help without disruption. This improves the band as a whole.
- ♪ Gum chewing is not allowed during rehearsal. It is a choking hazard as well as destructive to instruments.
- ♪ Respect the work that is being done and the amount of time you have invested.
- ♪ **Most of the student's grade will be based upon how well they participate in rehearsals,** since this is the most important aspect of what we do.

## EQUIPMENT

Students are expected to provide their own instruments, with the exception of those students who play certain school owned instruments (Tuba, percussion, oboe, etc). It is vital that an instrument be in good working condition, since this is the main tool a student will use in this class. If the instrument is not working properly, it will often frustrate the student and cause them to not enjoy the rehearsals. For this reason, there are certain procedures that need to be followed.

Never touch, play, or hold somebody else's instrument, for the simple reason that you may break it and then be responsible for its repair. This includes all equipment (such as percussion) owned by the school. These instruments are expensive and easily broken.

- ♪ Reed players should remove their reeds after each use and store in a reed case to enable them to dry properly.
- ♪ All woodwind players should swab the insides of their instruments following each use to remove moisture. This will keep the pads in good condition.
- ♪ Brass players need to oil their valves before rehearsal regularly (trombones should use slide cream and a water spray bottle) to ensure they work smoothly.
- ♪ Percussionists need to keep their equipment stored appropriately when not in use, and only take out the equipment they will be using for that day's rehearsal.

## CONCERT ATTENDANCE

Concert attendance is vital. Like being on a team, everyone plays an important part in the preparation for a concert, and having that part missing in a performance is often times decimating to the music that is prepared.

- ♪ If you must miss a concert for an unavoidable family emergency, a phone call or note from your parents explaining your absence must be given within 24 hours of the performance, or you will lose credit. If you must miss a concert because of a schedule conflict, a written note must be presented at least one week before the performance, or you will lose credit.
- ♪ In order to make up for a missed performance, the student must play all of the prepared concert music for the director within one week of the performance, and then will be graded on their performance.
- ♪ Concert attendance is a large part of the student's *assessment* grade. To ensure all concerts are attended, please find the "SCHEDULE OF EVENTS" located in this handbook and check the dates as soon as possible.
- ♪ The concert dress should be consistent and limited to the following: **Band polo shirt** (to be purchased from the boosters for \$16), **Plain black dress pants**, **Black dress shoes**, and **Black socks**.

## GRADING POLICY

### **GRADES ARE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:**

**CONCERTS:** 50 points are possible for each performance (see schedule of events on p.6 and concert attendance on p.4). Each concert will also be followed by a written Concert Review after each performance (10 pts.)

**OUTSIDE EXPERIENCE:** Once per marking period. The **outside experience assignment** is an open assignment where students may choose what it is they do, such as:

- ✓ Participation in Solo and Ensemble
- ✓ Participation in Jazz Band
- ✓ Ushering a Waverly concert (authorized by Mr. Gorbe prior to the event)
- ✓ Writing a paper about a composer, musician, or instrument
- ✓ Preparing a presentation
- ✓ Composing a piece of music
- ✓ Playing their instrument in church or some other event
- ✓ Private lessons (on band instrument)
- ✓ Other ideas for outside experience may be presented to Mr. Gorbe for approval.

**PARTICIPATION:** 4 points will be awarded daily for classroom participation (see Rehearsals on p. 3).

**PLAYING TESTS:** Once per marking period. A **playing test** will consist of 3 prepared pieces of music that are assigned at least two weeks prior to the test and played during class for a video camera located in one of our practice rooms. I then watch the tapes and grade the student's performance. The outcome of the playing tests may be used for chair assignments, if the class decides they would like to have chair placements. Each playing test is worth 100 points.

**PRACTICE: Practice Checks** will occur every week for each student and will consist of having each student play a short section of music during class. The student will then be given a grade based upon the progress that is made on that section. A **Practice Diary** will also be kept and graded every two weeks.

**HOMEWORK: Worksheets** will be in the homework folder with the Practice Diary and will consist of exercises pertaining to the music reading skills being studied in class. They will be checked and graded every two weeks with the Practice Diary.

# **7/8 BANDS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

## **OCT 16 (FRI) – HOMECOMING – 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BAND**

WILL BE MARCHING IN THE PARADE AND PERFORMING DURING PREGAME – HS  
BAND WILL HOST DINNER

## **OCT 28 (WED) 7:30 pm – Waverly ExtravaBANDza!**

W/6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BAND and HS MARCHING BAND - HS AUDITORIUM

## **NOV 14 (SAT) - FALL SOLO AND ENSEMBLE**

PARTICIPATION OPTIONAL – CHARLOTTE MS

## **DEC 17(THURS) 7:30 pm - WINTER CONCERT**

W/MS ORCHESTRAS AND CHOIR - HS AUDITORIUM

## **JAN 26 (TUES) – JAZZ FESTIVAL**

MS JAZZ BAND ONLY – LOCATION TBA – DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

## **MARCH 3 (WED) 7:30 pm - PRE-FESTIVAL CONCERT**

W/MS CHOIRS - HS AUDITORIUM

## **MARCH 19 OR 20 (FRI or SAT) - BAND FESTIVAL**

SITE/TIME TBA

## **APRIL 19 (SAT) - SPRING SOLO AND ENSEMBLE**

PARTICIPATION OPTIONAL – LOCATION TBA

## **APRIL 16 (WED) 7:30 pm - JAZZ NIGHT**

MS AND HS JAZZ BANDS W/CHAMBER ORCHESTRA - HS AUDITORIUM

## **MAY 12 (WED) 7:30 pm - SPRING CONCERT**

W/5<sup>TH</sup> AND 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BANDS - HS GYMNASIUM

## **JUNE 4 (FRI) - CEDAR POINT (TENTATIVE)**

MS BANDS, ORCHESTRAS, CHOIR

OPTIONAL, REWARD TRIP FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFY\*

\*Students qualify by having at least a “B” for the year in band, have not missed a concert (unless excused by Mr. Gorbe), they have not been sent to conflict resolution by Mr. Gorbe or a substitute teacher, and have not been reported by a substitute teacher as being a problem at any time during the year.

# (Return to Mr. Gorbe 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 The Waverly Middle School.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Practice

\_\_\_\_\_ Rehearsals

\_\_\_\_\_ Equipment

\_\_\_\_\_ Concert Attendance

\_\_\_\_\_ Grading Policy

\_\_\_\_\_ Schedule of events

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please be sure to fill out the back of this sheet as completely as possible.**

# Information Sheet to be used for our Band Student Database

Student name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

## **INSTRUMENT REGISTRATION**

\_\_\_\_\_ Student owned      \_\_\_\_\_ School owned

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Make (Brand) \_\_\_\_\_

Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_

Description/Condition \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **BAND SHIRTS**

\_\_\_\_\_ Our student will need band polo this year. Please order the following size:

Kids      S M L XL

Adult      S M L XL XXL

Polos are \$16.00 and are purchased by sending in a check to Mr. Gorbe made out to the **Waverly Band Boosters**.

\_\_\_\_\_ Our student already has a band polo that will work for this year.

## **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: \_\_\_\_\_