

# Meadow Hill Middle School Band

## Handbook

### Grades 6-8

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<https://www.mcpsmt.org/Domain/3956>

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Dear Students and Parents,

Thank you for the opportunity to teach you about music! I am very excited to work with all the fine students at Meadow Hill Middle School, and looking forward to making great music and memories.

What follows in the band handbook, which describes, in detail, several aspects about how the band program is operated at Meadow Hill. Please take the time to read this document and then both student and parent will sign the document at the end. Please also provide updated personal information so that I can keep my records updated. I have tried to keep things as brief as possible.

***Please*** put my information above in your phones or your address book, and when you have questions or concerns give me a call or email. It is my goal to have open lines of communication throughout the band program: teacher to student, teacher to parent, student to parent, and all combinations thereof.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Samuel McKenzie, Director of Bands

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## **Meadow Hill Band Mission**

- I. Hold students to a high level of excellence in character and musical performance
- II. Provide every student with the opportunity to appreciate and understand music at a high level
- III. Broaden students' "ears" by exposing them to a wide array of music

## **Communication - Where to Get Info?**

With nearly 200 students in band, I simply do not have the ability to answer phone calls and emails with the same question. SO, there will be several ways for me to communicate with you and you to communicate with me throughout the year.

### **Mass Email -Blackboard**

This is used to relay information about upcoming events that will be going on at Meadow Hill. These will include more detailed information then Connect 5.

### **Google Classroom**

Because we will be online learning as well, this is a great resource for students to check to see what we will be working on in class and online.

### **Band Website**

This is a great way to access information about everything relating to band at Meadow Hill. On the website, you can access the band calendar for the year, the band handbook, class schedule, and much more!

<https://www.mcpsmt.org/Domain/3956>

# What do I need for Band?

## Required Supplies for All Classes:

- *Music Folder*- this will be supplied by the band program. We will keep everything band-related in it.
  - Warm-up packets/handouts from Mr. McKenzie
  - Essential Elements For Band Book 1 (Hal Leonard) - 6th Grade/7<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - Essential Elements For Band Book 2 (Hal Leonard) - 7th grade/8<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - Blue Solo Book – 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade (from 5th grade band)
- *An Instrument in good, working condition* - without an instrument, instruction is difficult, and is detrimental to the team. If your instrument needs to go to the shop, there is a limited supply of loaner instruments (and many times music stores can get you one, too), so there is never an excuse for not having an instrument. If you have any concerns, please contact Mr. McKenzie.
  - If your instrument goes to the shop, KEEP YOUR REEDS!!
  - *School-Owned Instrument Rental Night is August 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> from 4-7 p.m.*
- *Pencils* - have dedicated pencils that stay in your band binder.
- *Instrument Supplies* - you need to keep these in your case or near your instrument at all times. Not having these supplies will lower your daily points.
  - Brass: valve oil, slide grease, polish cloth
  - Woodwinds: REEDS (multiple of them), reed case, swab, cork grease, tuning rod (flute only)
  - Percussion: Stick bag with required sticks and mallets. See next page for specific requirements.

Mr. McKenzie does carry a limited amount of supplies. Students will be provided with materials upon request. For questions or concerns about supplies, please contact Mr. McKenzie!

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## Instrument Repair Shops

Music Medics, Matt Wilson  
(406) 552-0241  
333 SW Higgins Ave.  
Tues-Fri: 9:30am-6pm  
Saturday: 10am-2pm

Morgenroth Music Center  
(800) 462-0013  
1105 W Sussex  
Mon-Fri: 9:30am-6pm  
Saturday: 9:30am-5:30pm

# Percussion Equipment & Supplies

Percussion is a unique instrument all around. The fundamentals are different, how we make sound on the instrument is different, the amount of instruments we have to play is different, and we don't even get to sit down during rehearsals! So, you get your own special page in the band handbook to address percussion-specific concerns.

The district provides tens of thousands of dollars in percussion equipment to use every year. To help with the maintenance of these instruments, we require **every percussionist to pay a \$35 percussion fee every year**. This is so that percussionists can use high quality equipment, so that they sound the best they can. Something to note is that this is less than a wind instrument rental for the year - and they get to use more instruments throughout the year than anyone.

In addition, percussionists are required to have a certain set of supplies. While the initial investment of these supplies is larger than some other instruments, sticks and mallets should last any given student well into high school if they are taken care of. Mr. McKenzie does have a few percussion supply packs available for check-out, and there is a **\$20 per year fee** for that. The bonus: if a student uses a stick pack every year, and would like to keep it into high school, that student can keep their stick pack.

- Stick Bag
- Practice Pad (mostly kept at home, but sometimes used at the school - not included in school rental packs)
- Concert Snare Drum Sticks (NO NYLON TIPS!)
  - Vic Firth SD1
  - Salyers Percussion PCS1
- Medium/Hard Rubber Xylophone Mallets
  - Salyers E70 Medium Rubber Mallets
- Cord or Yarn Vibraphone/Marimba Mallets
  - Salyers E20 Medium/Hard Yarn Mallets

*Optional, but good to have:*

- Hard Plastic/Acrylic Bell Mallets
- Staccato/Hard Timpani Mallets
- Medium Yarn Marimba Mallets

# Preferred Instruments List

*The instruments listed are not required. These are simply suggestions. Please contact Mr. McKenzie if you are considering buying a new or used instrument for your student.*

## **Flute**

Yamaha 222  
Yamaha 362  
Jupiter JFL 700 or 710

## **Trumpet**

Yamaha YTR-200ADII  
Bach TR300H2

## **Clarinet**

Buffet E-11  
Buffet B-12  
Jupiter JCL750N

## **French Horn\***

Holton H179  
Yamaha YHR668  
Holton H379

## **Alto Saxophone**

Yamaha YAS-23 or 26  
Yamaha YAS-200ADII  
Jupiter JAS710GN

## **Trombone**

Yamaha YSL-446G  
Bach TB200B  
Yamaha YSL-882

*\*These instruments will always be provided by the school. These lists are just in case you want to purchase your own instrument.*



# Evaluations & Grading Policy

While it is difficult to assess students in an art, there are certain aspects of music that are measurable. It is expected that students are giving their best effort at any moment, and below are the kinds of assignments Meadow Hill Band Students will receive throughout the year.

## **Concerts and Performances - 40%**

Band class is a “performance-based” class, meaning that we work toward performances and build a wide array of skills to be able to perform well. While much of what we do can be done during class, performance are an important part to showcase what students are learning and how they are progressing, as well as provide checkpoints for evaluation.

Students will fill out self-evaluations for each concert, and the only way to do that is by attending the concert. If students are going to be missing a concert, communication must be done *in advance* to allow for a make-up assignment. Weather conditions rarely cancel concerts - unless you hear from Mr. McKenzie or a school administrator, plan on attending concerts. Communications will be made through all possible avenues if a concert needs to be cancelled.

Students that do not attend a concert will need to turn in the make-up assignment within one week of the concert date. Students can find instructions for completing the make-up assignments via Mr. McKenzie. Students that do not communicate *in advance* may not be granted the opportunity to make up the concert grade. Accommodations will be made for emergency situations.

## **Daily Participation - 25%**

This category covers students coming to class prepared. You can refer to the “Rehearsal Etiquette” rubric for the grading of this category.

Students who are well enough to come to school will be expected to participate in class to the best of their ability. If a student cleans their instrument well after each use (which they should be doing anyway), germs will not stay in the instrument and prolong sickness. Mr. McKenzie also has sanitizing spray that can disinfect mouthpieces after they are used.

Students also need written medical notes to be excused from participating due to an injury. Please provide written notes to the office so that Mr. McKenzie can have documentation of injuries to students.

Students who do not have all of their supplies will still be asked to participate to the best of their ability. Fingering along without an instrument, writing items in music, taking notes on notebook paper to add to music later are all great ways to stay engaged and earn all participation points for that day, even if a student does not have all their supplies.

## **Evaluations/Playing Tests - 25%**

There are two types of playing tests given throughout the year:

- Firstly, fundamentals will be assessed throughout the year on a progressing scale. Students are expected to be practicing these fundamentals at home daily, and will be assessed regularly on their progress.
  - Mr. McKenzie will print out when these tests will be done. These will also be made available on the website.
  - Students may be asked to submit these outside of class time. Students can use a number of different technologies to do this: video submission via email, in-person appointments outside of class, etc.
- Secondly, students will have “Concert Music Tests” on their music. These will be more technical, and apply directly to their performances.
  - If a student does not pass a concert music test, that student will be asked to get help outside of class time.
  - If a student does not pass concert music tests, and does not come for help, a student may be asked to omit from that section of the piece of music during a performance. This is very, very rare.
  - Students may be asked to submit these outside of class time. Students can use a number of different technologies to do this: video submission via email, in-person appointments outside of class, etc.

In addition to playing tests, students will be given an array of different written and interactive assessments, ranging from online tests, paper tests, games, interactive online class polls, and pretty much anything else Mr. McKenzie can get his hands on.

## **Musicianship Points - 10%**

Students must earn 100 musicianship points per quarter. Students practice responsibility by keeping track of their progress using a score sheet. Musicianship points are earned ENTIRELY out of the classroom and class obligations.

A student should be keeping track of their musicianship points throughout the quarter. All Musicianship Points assignments are due one week before the quarter ends - to allow for Mr. McKenzie to process them all into the gradebook in time for quarter grades.

This assignment is the only assignment Mr. McKenzie DOES NOT accept late. Students are encouraged to turn them in up to one week early to prevent any issues that might arise when turning them in at the last minute. This assignment also required PARENT SIGNATURES and the proper documents to be turned in together.

Each quarter, one student will be selected to win a \$25 gift card for turning in their Musicianship Point Card!

Please see the next page on how musicianship points can be earned.

# Musicianship Points

Our goal is to cultivate comprehensive musicianship in every student: skills, knowledge and affect. As an assessment to everyday class experiences, Musicianship Points encourage students to actively explore the various elements of music by emphasizing different projects and assignments. If you think of a new project idea, please submit it to Mr. McKenzie.

- **Meadow Hill Concerts:** For concerts that students perform in, they can count 20 points per performance. *This does not include outside of school rehearsals, such as Red Wave practices.*
- **Practice Record:** 10 points per weekly practice sheet. Must have at least 60 minutes per week.
- **Private Lessons:** Keep a log of private lessons and have your lessons teacher sign it, or simply have your lessons teacher (or parent) write a note confirming how many lessons you have had. You receive 15 points per lesson! Piano lessons count!
- **Honor Groups:** If you are a member of an honor group, keep track of the rehearsals you attend (Mr. McKenzie will be, too - so be honest!) and you can claim 5 points per honor group rehearsal. This would include: Honor Band, Honor Choir, Southside Symphony, Percussion Ensemble, and others.
- **Perform a Solo or Ensemble on a Concert:** If you or a group wants to learn an additional piece of music for performance on a concert, talk to Mr. McKenzie and that can be arranged. This will earn each person performing 20 points.
- **Listening Assignment:** A playlist will be uploaded to YouTube every quarter so that students can listen and respond to listening assignments once per quarter.
- **Conducting:** 10 points for conducting fundamental sequences or a piece of music during class. *Max 1 per quarter.*
- **Live Concerts:** 20 points per ANY live concert outside of class time. Must attach ticket stub or concert program to musicianship points card for credit (I will return it if you want it). This does not include pre-recorded concerts (YouTube, DVD, Netflix, etc.).
- **Concert Critique:** Up to an additional 20 points for writing a formal reflection of a live concert. There is a form to complete to receive credit for this assignment. You may do this for a pre-recorded live concert.
- **Extra Performances:** 25 points for additional performances outside of Meadow Hill Band responsibilities. This might include a rock band, church group, studio recitals, etc. Please verify with a recording, program, or parent/adult note.
- **Learn a Song by Ear:** 10 points for learning a tune by ear without sheet music. Demonstrate for Mr. McKenzie.

There are more opportunities for musicianship points than are listed here. Please talk to Mr. McKenzie if you have an idea for musicianship points! All ideas will be considered!

# Private Lessons

Private lessons is a great way to improve on your instrument. This is also a great way to earn an A in band as well! Below is a list of private instructors that I recommend for private lessons. I am also available before and after school for extra help for all students. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Flute: Dr. Jennifer Cooper - [jcooperflute@gmail.com](mailto:jcooperflute@gmail.com) or 606-207-1823  
Kirsten McGlynn - [mslaflute@gmail.com](mailto:mslaflute@gmail.com) or 406-270-0108

Oboe: Susi Stipich - [sstipich@hotmail.com](mailto:sstipich@hotmail.com)

Bassoon: Alicia McLean - [basunist@msn.com](mailto:basunist@msn.com)

Clarinet: Chuck Florence - [saxophones2@msn.com](mailto:saxophones2@msn.com) or 406-241-3544

Saxophone: Jesse Dochnahl - [jedochnahl@mcpsmt.org](mailto:jedochnahl@mcpsmt.org)  
Chuck and Brooke Florence - [saxophones2@msn.com](mailto:saxophones2@msn.com) or 406-241-3544  
Lewis Nelson - [lnelson@mcpsmt.org](mailto:lnelson@mcpsmt.org)

Horn: Dr. Zach Cooper - [zachary.cooper@mso.umt.edu](mailto:zachary.cooper@mso.umt.edu) or 407-739-2505

Trumpet: Nick Barr - [nickbarr96@Gmail.com](mailto:nickbarr96@Gmail.com)  
Brendan McGlynn - 406-529-9976

Trombone: Josh Hungate - [jhungate@mcpsmt.org](mailto:jhungate@mcpsmt.org)  
Naomi Siegel - [naomi.siegel@gmail.com](mailto:naomi.siegel@gmail.com) or 617-290-063  
Lexi Vine - [xiaosang05@gmail.com](mailto:xiaosang05@gmail.com)

Euphonium: Dr. Benedict Kirby - [benedictkirby1966@gmail.com](mailto:benedictkirby1966@gmail.com)  
Josh Hungate - [jhungate@mcpsmt.org](mailto:jhungate@mcpsmt.org)  
Lexi Vine - [xiaosang05@gmail.com](mailto:xiaosang05@gmail.com)

Tuba: Dr. Benedict Kirby - [benedictkirby1966@gmail.com](mailto:benedictkirby1966@gmail.com)

Percussion: Loren Lauridson – [llauridson@gmail.com](mailto:llauridson@gmail.com)

# Classroom Expectations

Below is the rubric that Mr. McKenzie uses to assign daily participation points to students. Students will also, from time to time, fill out self-evaluations using this rubric as well.

## Daily Points Rubric

5 = Always

4 = Mostly

3 = Sometimes

2 = Rarely

1 = Never

### **Category 1 - Supplies**

*I brought all the supplies I needed for class: my folder with all my music, a pencil, and my instrument in working condition with all needed maintenance and supplies. I informed Mr. McKenzie of missing music before class started, and/or of instrument issues before class started, so that I could resolve problems before instruction began. If I am a percussionist, I set up all the instruments I needed for the day and set up trap stands before class began so I could participate in fundamentals.*

### **Category 2 - Instrument Maintenance**

*My instrument was in working condition when I arrived in class, or I received a loaner instrument from Mr. McKenzie at the beginning of class. I correctly and carefully assembled my instrument at the beginning of class in a timely manner. At the end of class, I carefully and correctly disassembled my instrument and properly cleaned it in a timely manner.*

### **Category 3 - Participation**

*I came into class and found my seat. I listened to instructions and assembled my instrument when it was my turn. I waited to play as a group when we were asked to. I was actively listening, writing things in my music, and was engaged appropriately in class discussions. I raised my hand when I had something to say and said appropriate questions or comments that were not distracting from the learning of the lesson.*

### **Category 4 - Performance Habits**

*I treated rehearsal as if it were a performance - I tapped my toe and counted in my head at all times to make sure I was rhythmically aligned with the group and/or the metronome. I played my music at a very high level at all times. I concentrated on making sure the melody was heard and I was playing with the best possible sound at all times. While counting measures, I was counting and on task, not talking during my rests.*

### **Category 5 - Preparedness & Citizenship**

*I came to class with my part practiced to the best of my ability. I was able to identify parts of the music that I don't understand or am having trouble preparing and asked for help at an appropriate time. I marked places in my music where I made consistent errors so that I do not make those errors again.*

*I cleaned up my area at the end of class, even if I did not make the mess. I took care of band equipment, and did not touch, play, or damage any equipment that did not belong to me. I was respectful of other people and their belongings. I did not steal (or "borrow" without permission) any supplies or items that I did not bring to class. I helped keep our band hall a safe, clean place to make great music.*

# Honor Ensemble

This ensemble meets before the school day (Tuesday and Thursday from 7:05-7:40 a.m.) and are auditioned groups. Students participating in these groups will have multiple performance opportunities during our regular concerts and community events throughout the year. Students will also have the opportunity to perform at Silverwood Theme Park and spend the entire day there as well. These students will also be expected to complete assignments for their groups as well as their regular band class. Assignments for these groups depends heavily on technology and work done outside of rehearsal.

Honor ensembles have a **required fee of \$75 per student**. However, this is a per-campus fee, not a per-ensemble fee. Meaning that if a student is involved in more than one honor ensemble in a year, they still only have to pay one fee. This fee pays for busses for our in-town trips, food on those trips, and director stipends for their time outside of their contract day. There are scholarships available, so please contact Mr. McKenzie if finances are an issue.

## Jazz Band

Jazz Band is a great way to continue playing music at a higher level with other students who enjoy music. This is different than our normal concert bands and is a fun and exciting genre of music to perform. This ensemble will perform in a variety of concerts and will be the ambassador to Meadow Hill when we travel in to our community. Students will have the opportunity to perform more literature and more advanced literature in this ensemble.



## All-City

All-City Band is an excellent opportunity to participate in a concert band made up of the most elite musicians in MCPS. All students who are interested in All-City Band are required to audition. Auditions are normally held during early October and the material will be prepped during class time. All-City Band meets every Tuesday from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at C.S. Porter Middle School. Auditions will be held Monday October 10 through Wednesday October 12 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at C.S. Porter Middle School. The first rehearsal will be Tuesday, October 18

## Instrument Storage and Personal Belongings

The Meadow Hill Band program will issue students a space for medium- to large-instrument storage to use throughout the year. These spaces are simply places for students to keep their band instruments throughout the day so they don't have to carry them from class to class. Students are expected to keep valuables with them throughout the day and only keep their band supplies, which are clearly labeled with the student's name, in their space.

That being said, Meadow Hill Bands is not responsible for misplaced or stolen items from instrument storage locations. They are not secure - they can't be locked and have no door. If a student has an item go missing, they should tell Mr. McKenzie immediately.

## Attendance Policy

Much like a sports team, attendance in band is incredibly important. If a student is not at a dress rehearsal or performance, the team suffers. The biggest difference between sports teams and band is that in band ***everyone is a starter***. When you are absent, it is like a starting quarterback or lineman or pitcher or point guard didn't show up for a game. This is why we put such a big emphasis on attendance and communication.

That being said, emergencies and other unavoidable events happen. The further in advance communication occurs, the better. Solutions can be worked out for nearly every situation.

Students that miss school due to sickness *are not* automatically excused for concerts or performances. Because our concerts are *co-curricular* and not extra-curricular, attendance to concerts is still expected if no communication is made. Please still communicate with Mr. McKenzie if a student is going to miss a concert due to illness.

## Instrument/Music Class Switching Policy

If a student wishes to change music classes, this can only be done at the beginning of each quarter. During the last weeks of the quarter, a student must get a Class Change form from the counselor's office, audition for the new music class, and have both music teachers and parents sign the form to make the switch. See Mr. McKenzie for specific information.

Changing instruments, in no matter what stage of a musician's development, isn't an easy task. Most students should not need to switch instruments, but wish to for a variety of reasons. Mr. McKenzie strongly recommends NOT switching instruments unless absolutely necessary. If a student wishes to switch, they will need to take lessons on their own time and audition on that new instrument - just as if that student were switching music classes.

## Student/Parent Agreement & Contact Info

Please fill out the following form and return it with your student no later than **Monday, September 5, 2022**. Communication throughout the year depends heavily on the information you provide. Your support and open communication is immensely appreciated.

We, both student and parent(s)/guardian(s), have read and understand the goals, strategies, and evaluations stated in the Band Handbook. We will make arrangements for the students to attend all Band performances and obligations. Only with the approval from the teacher, in the case of school or family emergency or illness, can a student be excused from a Band obligation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. McKenzie.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name(s):			
Address:			
Student Instrument:		Parent Cell Phone:	
		Parent Email:	
Student Shirt Size:		Interested in being a chaperone?	

*The information being asked for above is for band use only. For questions or concerns, please contact Mr. McKenzie.*