

# Meadow Hill Middle School Band

## Handbook 2020

### Grades 6-8

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<https://www.mcpst.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.

Due to the unique nature on how we are beginning the school year, some aspects have been adjusted and others may be adjusted as the year goes along. Please be patient as we work together to make music this year!

~~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!

## 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.

### Connect 5

This is the phone messaging system that allows me to send quick reminders to everyone efficiently, and is used by the school. I will not send messages often, and I will keep them brief. They will typically be reminders of large band events.

### Mass Email -Black board

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

# 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 only
  - Essential Elements For Band Book 2 (Hal Leonard) - 7th grade only
  - Foundations of Superior Performance – Warm-ups and Technique for Band (Richard Williams and Jeff King, Published by Kjos Music) - 8th Grade only
  - 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 Wednesday, August 26 from 6-8pm (A-L)*
    - *Thursday August 27<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm (M-Z)*
- *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.

Morgenroth Music Center  
(800) 462-0013  
1105 W Sussex

Tues-Fri: 9:30am-6pm

Mon-Fri: 9:30am-6pm

Saturday: 10am-2pm

Saturday: 9:30am-5:30pm

## Per cussion 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 during the year and will potentially be modified when we are at full participation in class and allowed to perform concerts.

## Daily Participation – 40%

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.

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 – 20%

- Fundamentals will be assessed throughout the year on a progressing scale. Students are expected to be practicing these fundamentals at home, 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 google classroom.

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.

## Google Classroom – Online Learning – 40%

This category is necessary as we are having days where we are learning from home. We will continue to use this platform throughout the year. Assignments will be posted and students will

need to complete these by the due date. These would include, practice assignments, written assignments, google form reflection and video reflection assignments.

There will be weekly assignments that students will need to complete.

# 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 Ensembles

Honor Ensembles are on hold for now until we are given permission to meet. More information about these ensembles will be made available later in the year.

## 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.

## 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.