

NORTHEAST MIDDLE SCHOOL

**BAND HANDBOOK**  
2018 – 2019



**SIXTH GRADE BAND  
SEVENTH GRADE BAND  
EIGHTH GRADE BAND  
SMALL ENSEMBLES  
JAZZ BAND  
WIND ENSEMBLE**

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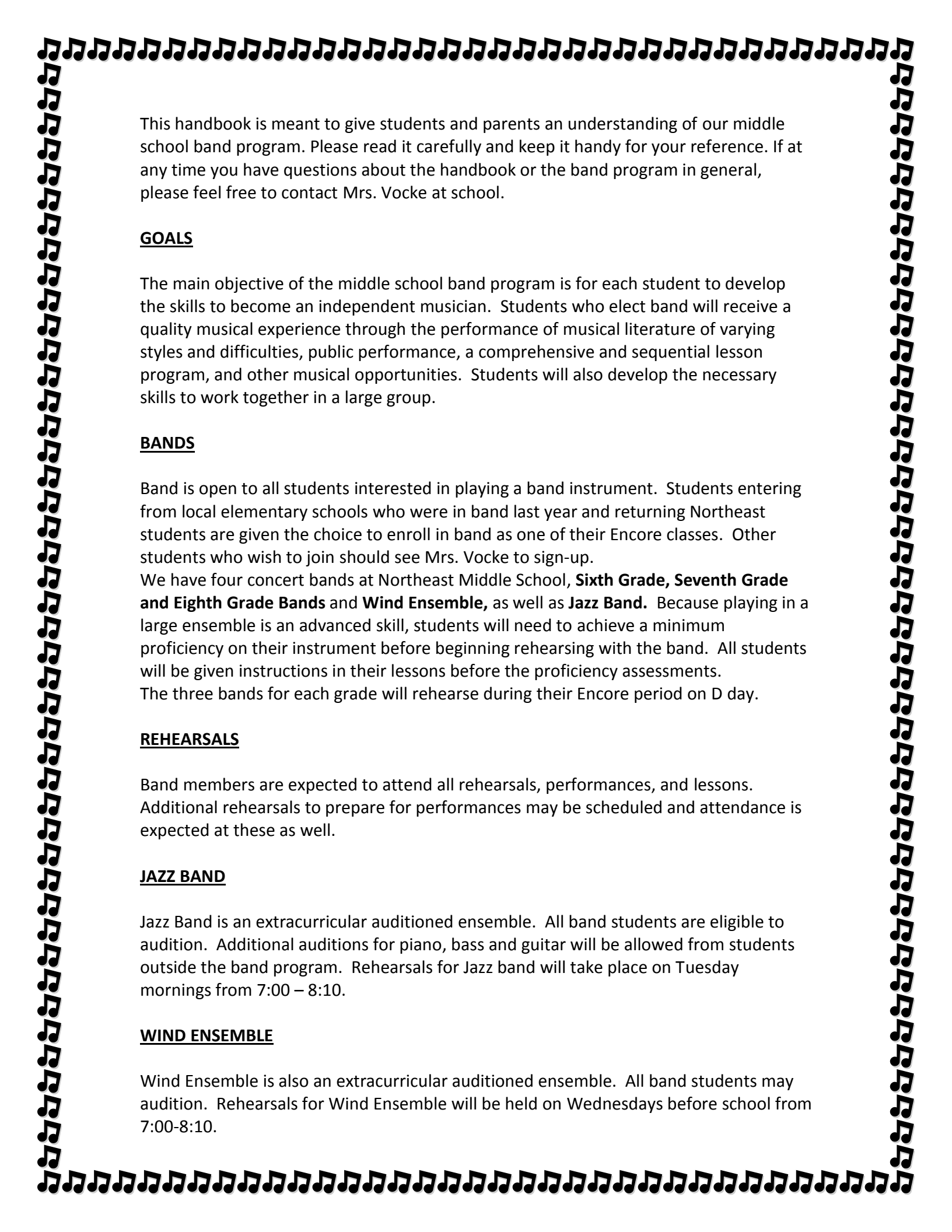
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This handbook is meant to give students and parents an understanding of our middle school band program. Please read it carefully and keep it handy for your reference. If at any time you have questions about the handbook or the band program in general, please feel free to contact Mrs. Vocke at school.

### GOALS

The main objective of the middle school band program is for each student to develop the skills to become an independent musician. Students who elect band will receive a quality musical experience through the performance of musical literature of varying styles and difficulties, public performance, a comprehensive and sequential lesson program, and other musical opportunities. Students will also develop the necessary skills to work together in a large group.

### BANDS

Band is open to all students interested in playing a band instrument. Students entering from local elementary schools who were in band last year and returning Northeast students are given the choice to enroll in band as one of their Encore classes. Other students who wish to join should see Mrs. Vocke to sign-up.

We have four concert bands at Northeast Middle School, **Sixth Grade, Seventh Grade and Eighth Grade Bands** and **Wind Ensemble**, as well as **Jazz Band**. Because playing in a large ensemble is an advanced skill, students will need to achieve a minimum proficiency on their instrument before beginning rehearsing with the band. All students will be given instructions in their lessons before the proficiency assessments. The three bands for each grade will rehearse during their Encore period on D day.

### REHEARSALS

Band members are expected to attend all rehearsals, performances, and lessons. Additional rehearsals to prepare for performances may be scheduled and attendance is expected at these as well.

### JAZZ BAND

Jazz Band is an extracurricular auditioned ensemble. All band students are eligible to audition. Additional auditions for piano, bass and guitar will be allowed from students outside the band program. Rehearsals for Jazz band will take place on Tuesday mornings from 7:00 – 8:10.

### WIND ENSEMBLE

Wind Ensemble is also an extracurricular auditioned ensemble. All band students may audition. Rehearsals for Wind Ensemble will be held on Wednesdays before school from 7:00-8:10.

## LESSONS

All band students are scheduled for a 30 minute small group lesson once per rotation. Students are pulled from other classes for these lessons; however, the schedule rotates so students do not miss the same class each time. A student will usually miss only a portion of each class 2-3 times per marking period. See the schedules for further clarification.

Because this is a “pull-out” program it is understood that there will be times when a student cannot attend a lesson due to class work that **CANNOT** be completed at another time. (i.e. tests) When this happens, students should see Mrs. Vocke to see if there is another time to make up the class.

Given of the small amount of time available for band, the lesson time is very important and absences must be kept to a minimum.

## SEATING CHALLENGES

Students are placed in a seating order determined by their performance on a playing test. Seating tests are given in the beginning of the year and after the winter concert. A challenge system has been developed to provide an opportunity for band members to improve their seating assignments within their section. It should be used as a positive motivational device to encourage extra effort in terms of practice outside of class.

This system is intended to motivate students to become better musicians, and to foster friendly competition, not intense rivalry. Students involved in mean spirited conversations concerning challenges will be placed at the end of the section. This system is designed to make the band and the individuals in it better, and to reward those students who are working hard.

## PERFORMANCES

Performance is a major function of any musical organization and a successful performance is dependent upon the participation of ALL of its members. Attendance at the following performances is mandatory:

### Tentative Concert Dates:

**Open House at BEHS for 8th grade band members TBA**

**Winter Concert: December 11, 2018**

**Music in Our Schools Festival: March 7, 2019**

**Spring Concert: May 16, 2018**

As other performance opportunities arise, parents will be notified in advance for proper planning.

## CONCERT ATTIRE

All students will wear a black dress shirt or blouse, black dress pants or black ankle length skirt, or black dress, and black dress shoes.

## GRADES

Band members receive a grade on their report card that is issued at the end of each trimester marking period.

This grade is a combination of the students' performance in lessons, rehearsals, playing evaluations, homework, and concerts. Preparation of assigned music, participation in class, effort, and conduct are major parts of the grading process. **Unexcused absences from a mandatory performance may result in a failing grade.**

Progress reports will also be sent home during the year.

## PRACTICE

Practicing is the most important and effective learning strategy. Students who practice consistently, following their assignments in their practice journals, will be successful.

Students are REQUIRED to bring instruments home to practice.

Students assign themselves their practice material at the end of each lesson. They are assessed on something from this assignment at their next lesson. Middle school students should practice 30 minutes per day, and more if they want to participate in advanced ensembles or audition for regionals.

Parent Tip: I use this in my house..."No screen time until you have practiced." It works.

## EQUIPMENT

Student-owned instrument cases should be clearly marked with the student's name.

The school owns some band instruments and these are available for student use. These are limited to the larger instruments such as low brass, low woodwinds, and large percussion. Students wishing to use school owned instruments will be given a sign-out form to complete before taking the instrument. A fee of \$40 will be charged for the use of school wind and percussion instruments. Students are responsible for the proper care of their instrument.

PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS are to be played only by members of the PERCUSSION SECTION.



## NECESSARY MATERIALS

### ALL STUDENTS:

**A BLACK HALF-INCH BINDER AND PLASTIC PAGE-SAVER SHEETS.** This will replace the music folders used in the past. Students will need a plastic page for each piece of music.

**LESSON BOOK** - All band students will be using the band method book “**Standard of Excellence**”. Students will continue from the Red book into the Blue Book, finishing up in the Green Book.

**MUSIC STAND** – All band students should have a music stand at home. This helps promote proper posture and better sound.

**METRONOME AND TUNER** – All band students should have and use a metronome for teaching beat and pulse, and a tuner to teach pitch and playing in tune. Students who own a smart phone may be invited to use their device during band and technique classes as a tuner/metronome. Students who own a smart phone or device capable of digital recording may be invited to use this to record themselves playing musical examples at home for additional teacher support and evaluation.

### REED PLAYERS:

All reed players should have a supply of at least 10 reeds (size 2½ or 3) and a cleaning swab or ‘stuffit’ type pad saver.

### BRASS PLAYERS:

All brass players should have the proper lubricant. (Trumpet/ Horn/ Baritone/Tuba = ‘Al Cass Fast’ valve oil, Trombone = Super Slick slide cream).

### PERCUSSIONISTS:

All percussionists will use a drum kit that includes a practice pad for lessons. All players must have a set of snare drum sticks (5b are recommended) and a set of bell mallets. Other mallets, including timpani (T1 Generals), keyboard, and cymbal, should also be acquired. A separate stick bag would be handy to keep all of your sticks safe and in one place.

Please return this contract and information form to Mrs. Vocke by **September 17, 2018**  
Keep the handbook as a reference.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CONTRACT

Because everyone in each band is important, your presence at all rehearsals, your preparation by practicing, and your participation in concerts are vital to the success of the whole program.

Please sign below to indicate that you have read the handbook and understand the expectations of the Band Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's name (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Room

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/ Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone/Home phone