WELCOME!

Ola Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to another great year in the Ola Band Program! We are very excited about the opportunity to work with your students and create a wonderful middle school band experience. When students join band at Ola, they are making a commitment to work hard, practice, and be able to play the music they have been assigned. High expectations of achieving excellence are placed on all band students on a daily basis. We expect that students will come to class prepared, behave, work hard, and give their best effort individually as a part of the largest team in the school. A regular routine of practicing should be established and enforced at home. Band is a co-curricular performance based class, which means there are commitments outside of the school day that impact the student's grade and band placement. Our goal is to allow students as many different performance opportunities as possible throughout the year. The longer your student plays, the more opportunities will be available to them.

In band, students get the chance to express themselves through music in their own way. They will also take many positive attributes away from band that will stick with them for the rest of their lives: self-discipline, organization, group cooperation, individual creativity, team work, a good work ethic, personal confidence and a higher self-esteem. Band will make a positive impact in your student's education.

The band classes at Ola are full year classes and students will not be permitted to drop out partway through the year. We believe it is important for students to learn the lesson that hard work leads to success, which then leads to enjoyment. This is an important life lesson we try to teach our students in addition to teaching them the value of learning to appreciate and understand music through playing an instrument.

We will do our best to communicate regularly with parents throughout the year. Every choice we make is based on what we believe is best for the students and the band program. If you have a question, concern, or something positive to share, please give us a call or email us. We will make every attempt to respond to you as promptly as possible.

Please keep this Band Handbook in a location where you can easily access it. <u>We ask that</u> <u>you refer to this document first when you have a question</u>. Please take time with your student to read through the band handbook so you both fully understand the band program. Most questions can be answered through this handbook. At the end of the handbook, please return the HANDBOOK FORM to Mr. Teti or Mr. Holley by the assigned due date.

Welcome to the Ola Middle School Band Program. We are greatly honored to serve as your band directors and we look forward to a musical and successful year.

Sincerely,

Michael Teti and Robert Holley

Table of Contents

	Grading- Henry Learns Standards Attendance Policies/Procedures Afterschool Pickup Policy Band Uniform Band Placements Rehearsal Guidelines Required Band Materials How to Practice? Instrument Care and Repair School Owned Instruments Money/Purchasing Fundraiser/Donations Other Opportunities for Band Members Parental Support Photo/Video Private Lessons	Page 3 Page 4-5 Page 5 Page 6 Page 6 Page 6-7 Page 7-8 Page 7-8 Page 8-9 Page 10 Page 10 Page 10 Page 11 Page 11 Page 12 Page 12 Page 12
_		U
•	Band Cubbies Volunteer Form THE HANDBOOK FORM *Required Return*	Page 12 Page 12 Page 13 Page 14

All information sent home will be available for download from Michael Teti's teacher webpage within the OMS School website <u>https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Domain/5361</u>

GOOGLE CLASSROOM CODE FOR OMS BANDS IS <u>818921</u> ACCESSIBLE TO SCHOOL PROVIDED EMAIL ADDRESSES ONLY

"Poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency for someone else...always plan ahead and be prepared."

GRADING

Henry County Schools grade based on Henry Learns Standards under the four domains below. These standards are going to be available on the district website after they are finalized during the 18-19 school year.

- 1. Performing (27%)
- 2. Music Literacy and World Connections (26%)
- 3. Professionalism (27%)
- 4. Final Exams- 20% (10% per semester)

What to know about grading in band...

> DAILY READINESS, PARTICIPATION, PLAYING, AND ASSIGNMENTS/RETURNS

Daily Readiness: Students are required to come to band daily with all their needed supplies to be successful in band (this is different for every instrument in the band). Failure to bring all items will result in citations and can result in loss of chair/band placement. This includes having food, gum or candy in their mouth once class has started. (see Required Materials p. 7)

Daily Participation/Playing

(Participation, Playing, Rehearsal Contribution, Attitude, Effort, Behavior)

Students receive grades for fully participating in class (further information is outlined under professionalism in the band domains). This includes being able to play assigned parts by the due date.

Students are expected to participate to the best of their ability each day that they are in class. *Exceptions are granted ONLY if a note is received from home signed by the parents stating the reason why the student may not participate that day.* A Doctor's note is also sufficient. As a general rule, if students are too ill to play their instrument, they should not be in attendance at school. Students may also be excused with a note if they have just received orthodontic or dental work. **Remember, in order for a student to be excused from participating in band, a parental note, email, or phone call is required on that day.**

Participation also includes: Good Posture, Good Attitude, Good Effort, Good Listening Skills, Participating in Classroom Discussions, and Good Behavior.

Please also see Rehearsal Guidelines (p. 6)

<u>Written work, homework, returns</u>: Throughout the year, students are given assignments to complete. These can include forms that need to be filled out and returned, writing assignments, written quizzes, and music preparation assignments.

> ASSESSMENTS

(Playing tests, quizzes, check-offs, concerts, performances, extra rehearsals, music prep assignments)

Tests and quizzes may be announced or unannounced, which is left up to the discretion of the band directors. For this reason, students are highly encouraged to practice on a regular basis in order to stay as prepared as possible for any unannounced evaluations. Playing tests will be played live and in front of the entire band. Domains clearly state the importance of playing individually and with others. When a rubric is used, it will be sent home with each student so they know the areas they need to work on.

Chair placements are left up to the directors' discretion. These are usually based on playing tests/assignments but changes can be made when necessary for attendance, behavior, attitude, leadership and preparedness.

Concerts/ Performances/ Extra Rehearsals

The bands at Ola are performance classes, which makes them co-curricular. Attendance at all performances and extra rehearsals is mandatory and graded. Most performances are outside the normal school day and will take place at a variety of venues. Students are expected to be on time, be on their best behavior, display proper concert etiquette, dress in the correct uniform (See Band Uniform on p. 6), stay for the entire concert (not just their portion) and help tear down at the end of the event. Failure to do any of these will result in a grade deduction (More information available under Performance and Professionalism Domains). (also see "Attendance Policy" below)

Bonus Opportunities

Attending any instrumental music performance (excluding ball games), performing for an activity outside of regular band functions, or attending special workshops for your instrument. Bonus points should be turned in with a parent signature on a note or program and the student's name and class period. Bonus points can be turned in at the end of each semester.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students who are enrolled in band classes need to understand that this is a performancebased class and **attendance is required and graded at all performances/extra rehearsals.** If someone is missing from the group, it hurts the entire group's performance. Parents are to notify a director by phone or email as soon as they are aware that the student will not be able to attend a performance/rehearsal (not having a ride is not an excused absence). Communication is KEY. Students who cannot adhere to these expectations may be removed from the group(s) and any student who misses more than one extra required rehearsal or more than one required performance without an excused absence will be subject to having their band placement re-evaluated at a directors' discretion.

Any **unexcused** absence will result in a zero for that performance/rehearsal.

There are two types of excused absences from a performance/rehearsal.

- <u>Emergency Absences</u>: excused illness absence from school, extreme emergency (such as a sudden illness, accident, etc.), and death in the family. Students that miss due to an emergency will not be penalized, but are expected to get the makeup assignment from Mr. Holley and turn in the required work within 5 days of returning to school. A parent note or phone call must be received by a director no later than the day after the absence. If this does not occur, the student will receive a zero for the performance grade.
- 2. <u>Pre-arranged Absences</u>: (family reunions/gatherings, church services, recitals) Parents should contact the band directors a minimum of <u>six weeks</u> prior to any performance for pre-arranged absences. These <u>must</u> be approved by the director(s). This is to allow a director to make necessary arrangements and to find a substitute to cover their part, if necessary. Please remember that any band performance takes a minimum of 6-8 weeks of class times to prepare, so as much advance notice is appreciated and expected. Students that miss due to a pre-arranged absence will not be penalized, **but are expected to get the makeup assignment from Mr. Holley and turn in the required work within 5 days of returning to school.** If this does not occur, the student will receive a zero for the performance grade.

Notes, emails, or phone calls regarding a student emergency absence must be received prior to the concert whenever possible and no later than the next day.

Performance dates will be sent out during the first weeks of school. Unfortunately, most contests do not publish performance times until 1 week prior to the event, so please do not call and ask for them. When we receive them, we will always send a notice home immediately.

AFTER SCHOOL PICKUP

We provide students with many opportunities outside the normal school day at the expense of time with our own personal families. Please be respectful of our time and commitments outside our job and be prompt when picking up your child.

After one late pickup (more than 15 minutes past the scheduled end time), students will no longer be allowed to stay after school for events/rehearsals/pep band etc. This can result in removal from an activity (without refund where applicable), group or specific band placement change at the discretion of the band directors.

BAND UNIFORM

All Ola Band students will wear the same uniform at most performances. Wearing the correct uniform is a part of the student's performance grade. The green polo shirts will be ordered during the first 9 weeks of school and available for purchase through the band department.

7th and 8th Grade PERFORMANCE ATTIRE: Green Ola Band Polo Shirt (Tucked IN), black dress pants, black dress shoes, black socks, black belt.

6th Grade PERFORMANCE ATTIRE: Green Ola Band Polo Shirt (Tucked IN), nice blue jeans, dress shoes, dress socks, brown or black belt.

*Students are <u>NOT</u> permitted to wear tennis shoes, skater shoes, slip-on sandals, white socks, black denim/jeans (7th/8th only), etc.

BAND PLACEMENTS

Students may be placed in leveled bands based upon playing ability, commitment to practice time, attitude, behavior, participation and effort demonstrated in class on a daily basis. A student's schedule may also dictate their band placement. It is important that these bands maintain a balanced instrumentation so that proper band sound and music literature can be accurately assessed and evaluated. We spend a lot of time determining the band placement that will challenge students while maintaining a proper balance of instrumentation in each group and making sure it is the best fit for the band program. Changes in band placements can be made at the end of each 9 weeks upon directors' discretion.

This year we will have the following classes (by period)

- 1- Instructional Focus Band Class (7/8)
- 2- 7th Grade Symphonic Band
- 3- 7th Grade Concert Band
- 4- 8th Grade Symphonic Band
- 5- 8th Grade Concert Band
- 6- 6th Grade Band
- 7- 6th Grade Band

*7th and 8th Grade Concert Bands will perform together on concerts.

REHEARSAL GUIDELINES

- 1. Be inside the band room by the time class is scheduled to begin.
- 2. Have your instrument and materials ready and be in your seat by **two minutes** after class has started. No cases or non-band related items at your seat.

- 3. Play your instrument (and only <u>your</u> own instrument) <u>only</u> when you have permission to do so by the band directors. Do not warm up on your own unless instructed to do so.
- 4. When the band directors are at the podium, be in the ready position without talking.
- 5. Always sit with correct posture when playing.
- 6. Have a pencil and your music on the stand every day.
- 7. The band room is a drink, gum and food FREE zone. DON'T BRING IT! (Water is always ok)
- 8. Be courteous and respectful to all staff and students you come into contact with.
- 9. Keep the band room neat and clean. Make sure your area is cleaner than you found it.
- 10. Keep your instrument clean and functioning prior to the start of class.
- 11. Stay in your seat unless you have permission to be up.
- 12. Be able to play all the parts you are assigned.
- 13. When a director stops the playing in rehearsal it is for a reason...LISTEN and PAY ATTENTION!
- 14. While a director is working with other sections, keep from talking and use this time for silent practice and studying your music.
- 15. Wait until a director dismisses you to leave the room.

Consequences for not following guidelines:

Lose participation points Citation Loss of chair/band placement Pack up instrument Alternate assignment Parent phone call Receive administrative referral Removal from rehearsal or performance Removal from band

REQUIRED BAND MATERIALS

Readiness Checklist for Ola Band Class

- 1. Instrument / Sticks in working order
- 2. Band binder and band book
- 3. All mouthpieces, ligatures etc needed to play your instruments.
- 4. Minimum of 4 good reeds for reed players AT ALL TIMES!
- 5. Valve oil/ rotor oil/ slide spray for brass players (depending on instrument)
- 6. PENCIL
- 7. Swabs for woodwind players

7th and 8th Graders: Band Binders/Notebooks

In an effort to assist in helping students become more organized, the Ola bands require that all band members have:

- 1. *Hard cover <u>black</u>* 1-1.5 inch binder with student's full name printed on front cover
- 2. *Minimum* of 35-50 glare-free plastic page protectors for sheet music

- 3. Pencil pouch that fits within the rings of the binder
- 4. Paper or notebook that can easily be contained within the binder rings
- 5. PENCILS!

This will help each student keep his/her sheet music organized in an effective manner. These items may be purchased from local stores such as Wal-Mart or Target.

Percussionists

All percussionists must have:

- 1. One pair of either *Vic Firth American Classic 5A* or *SD General* drumsticks
- 2. SD2 Boleros
- 3. Yarn mallets: Mike Balter 13B (or comparable) mallets
- 4. Plastic or Rubber Bell Mallets
- 5. Stick bag to carry them in with identification on each separate item.

This equipment can be purchased at any reputable music store. Students may be asked to purchase additional mallets/sticks based on the student's grade and needs of the band and music. Percussionist should bring their stick bag and practice pad to class daily.

<u>7/8 Symphonic Band Students</u> are required to get a tuner and mic pickup. Both items are available at Whole Note Music for \$32.

• Korg CA-2 Chromatic Tuner and Korg CM-200 Contact Microphone

Band Books

6th Grade-_6th grade students will need to obtain Essential Elements Book 1 from one of our music stores.

<u>7th Grade-</u>7th Grade students will need their 6th grade band book and Essential Elements book 2 (RED).

8th Grade-8th Grade students will need their 7th grade band book. If another book is needed as we progress, information will be sent home.

HOW TO PRACTICE

All band students are required to maintain a regular practice schedule in order to be successful. How much a student practices depends on how good he or she desires to be. Instruments should go home every night.

Always have A PLAN for your practice time! Don't waste your time! What do you need to practice?

- ✓ <u>JUST DO IT</u>! It is easy to talk ourselves out of practicing sometimes. Have a CONSISTENT time and place that you practice each day—DO IT even if you don't feel like it! Make it a HABIT!
- ✓ Always work on your FUNDAMENTALS first (long tones, buzzing, scales, exercises, etc.), then progress to the music that needs attention.
- ✓ PRACTICE SLOWLY at first and REPEAT sections over and over until you get it right!
- ✓ LISTEN to yourself! Do you like the way you sound? If not, FIX IT!
- ✓ EXPERIMENT & BE CREATIVE- do not be afraid to try different ways of practicing.
- ✓ PRACTICE AS IF YOU WERE PERFORMING! Do not be LAZY when you practice!
- ✓ HAVE FUN!!! Always end by practicing something that YOU enjoy playing!!!

*Also see the "**Practice Tips Handout**" given out to students the first week of school for tips on your specific instrument.

INSTRUMENT CARE AND REPAIR

Whole Note Music stocks all director recommended instruments and required accessories for a "one stop" shop for all your band needs. They also offer lessons on most instruments.
Both stores below will send a repair tech out each week to do minor work and take in any major repair issues. Parents will be contacted prior to any billable repair for permission.

Whole Note Music

1508 Hudson Bridge Road Stockbridge, GA 30281 (678) 432-1400 McDonough Music 184 John Frank Ward Blvd. McDonough, GA 30253 (678)-432-0982

Students should keep their instruments in their *assigned* band cubbies during school hours. Students with smaller cases (flutes, oboes, clarinets) may opt to keep their instrument in their hall locker. Students <u>must</u> have a nametag attached to their case at all times. It would also be a good idea for parents to keep the instrument's serial number in a safe place at home. Students should only play and handle their own instrument.

Ola bands cannot be responsible for instruments left at school...therefore, it is HIGHLY encouraged that students take instruments home each evening.

If your student's instrument needs repairs, let Mr. Teti or Mr. Holley look at it first...sometimes the issue is very simple to fix. If we cannot fix it, we have a repair person that comes out weekly to fix horns. They will contact you directly if there is any payment needed for services.

Parents are NEVER to take an OLA school-owned instrument to any music store to be repaired. We will take care of that and secure a loaner for the student playing it. Please contact us directly if your school-owned instrument is not working properly.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

A fee of \$125.00 per year will be charged to all students renting a school owned instrument. All percussionists have a fee of \$35 per year to use all the school owned percussion instruments, sticks and mallets. This fee helps offset the cost of maintenance, cleaning, minor repairs and replacement. The student will be expected to pay for any damage done to a school owned instrument. Please be careful with these instruments. A separate rental agreement will be sent home regarding school owned instruments. The only instruments available for rental are tubas, baritones, french horns, bassoons, baritone saxophones, and bass clarinets as available.

MONEY

MY SCHOOL BUCKS: Our school bucks website is located off the Ola Middle School main page. Click on information, then MY SCHOOL BUCKS and follow the prompts. From the main page, click on OMS BANDS. This is how parents can purchase items using debit/credit cards. Once you pay/purchase the item, we will get an email and we will give your student the purchased item. We are going to try to use this system for oboe reeds, pep band dues, polos, hoodies, trip payments etc. Please be patient as we begin using this for the first time. Also just a reminder that 3.85% is added to the regular price as that is what the company charges for their services. All deadlines and due dates still apply.

The band will accept <u>cash or checks</u> for all band expenses but prefers checks. Checks must be made out to **OLA MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS**. Put your students name in the "memo" line of the check and include a current phone number. All money turned into the band must be clearly labeled <u>in an envelope</u> with the following information: Student's first and last name, class period, purpose of the money, amount of payment.

FUNDRAISERS/DONATIONS

Annual expenses for a middle school band program require participation in fundraisers and donation programs. We will only be doing one big fundraiser this year. We will also be doing a donation program all year. Information will be sent home as it becomes available. If you, family members, or even businesses you know would like to donate to the band program, please make checks payable to OLA MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS. Feel free to donate at any time during the year and at our concerts. We appreciate your support and helping make sure we have the funds to give your student a great middle school band experience. These funds go towards music, equipment, GMEA dues, instruments and instrument needs, repair, director stipends, transportation, director's trip expenses, instructors, staff, director's professional growth/development, and student music camp scholarships.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR BAND MEMBERS

- 1. Football pep band
- 2. UGA Summer Music Camp
- 3. Encore Summer Music Camp
- 4. UGA Midfest Festival
- 5. District Honor Band
- 6. Regional band invites
- 7. Henry County 6th Grade Honor Band
- 8. GMEA All State Bands
- 9. Private Lessons
- 10. Band Trips
- 11. Solo and ensemble contest

PARENTAL SUPPORT

Please help us make your child's band experience the very best that it can be. Thank you in advance for doing your part as a supportive Ola Band Parent.

- 1. Teach your students to be on time and plan rides to rehearsals and events far in advance.
- 2. Please list your email addresses on the handbook form page below so we can add you to our OLA BANDS group email list-serve and you can stay informed about upcoming dates and activities.
- 3. Come to concerts and school events.
- 4. Do your part as a part of the band team: help as you can with concert set up, concert tear down, supervising students prior to the concert, supervising other bands during performances as they are an audience for the performing band.
- 5. Be courteous and supportive at performance events: No talking, cell phones on silent, no moving around, or leaving during performances...stay for the entire concert.
- 6. Help your student arrange a practice schedule and enforce it at home (Average of 20 min. per night.)
- 7. Check to make sure their instrument doesn't need to be repaired, and if it does, please make sure it is done in a timely manner.
- 8. We update grades weekly...if you see a dropping participation grade, please talk with your student about how they are participating in band. If their test grades are low, more focused practice time is needed.
- 9. Please make sure your child has all accessories (reeds, oil, etc.) all the time. They will need replacements on a regular basis.
- 10. Make your student responsible and accountable for bringing information home to you.
- 11. Get your student enrolled in private lessons. (Suggested list of teachers is available upon request)
- 12. Volunteer to help out with fundraisers, trips, clerical tasks and concerts. (Please fill out attached Parent Volunteer Form)

*Keep this handbook, regularly check your student's internet grades, make sure your student is practicing on a regular basis, read our OLA BAND GROUP EMAILS, and stay involved, your child will have success in band.

PHOTO/VIDEO

Photographs or video of students involved in the Ola Band Program will be included in the yearbook and may be used in promotional materials, on our website or Facebook page. By signing the handbook form, you agree to allow your child to be included in any of the formats mentioned above. If you choose for your student to not be videoed or photographed you must inform a director in writing by Aug. 15.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are very important to the success that each student can have on their instrument. One-on-one instruction is key when developing as a young musician. With band sizes averaging 60+, we cannot give a lot of individualized instruction time. We strongly recommend that each family try to arrange for their child to be enrolled in private lessons. We have a list of reputable teachers in the area based on instruments. Please contact them and set up lessons for your student.

What Private Lessons Can Do For YOU:

- Work with a professional musician that plays your instrument
- Individual attention for your specific musical needs
- Prepare for auditions and honor bands
- Get extra help to prepare for playing tests
- Be challenged with harder music
- Possibly move your chair up in band??? (This is up to you too!)
- Get equipped with the right skills to be an even better musician
- Be able to work on music for opportunities outside the normal band class

SHEET MUSIC AND HANDOUTS

All students are provided sheet music and other handouts for instruction, personal practice, and performing. Students should keep all music and handouts inside the plastic page protectors in their Band Binder. There is no charge for the first copy of music or a class handout. If the music is lost or destroyed, students will receive a citation for an additional copy. Music/handouts left in the band room will also result in a citation. Music should never be left in the band room cubbies!

BAND CUBBIES

Band cubbies are assigned to students during the first few weeks of school. BAND CUBBIES ARE FOR INSTRUMENTS ONLY...NOTHING ELSE CAN BE LEFT IN THE CUBBIES. Students with smaller instruments should leave their instruments in their hallway locker. Students must always have a name tag on their instrument. Touching another student's instrument or moving it will result in an office referral. Our cubbies are non-locking and directors are not responsible for equipment that goes missing...so it is highly encouraged that students take their instruments home daily and parents keep the instrument serial number in a safe place at home.

Ola Band Parent Help Form

During the year there will be times when we will need parent assistance in many different ways. Please check below any areas in which you would be willing to help out during the year. Also please fill out the information regarding days and times when you are available and how to best reach you. Thank you in advance for all of your hard work and dedication!

Truck	_ Truck or truck and trailer for equipment transport (Pep band, LGPE, Trips etc)								
Conce	Concert set up and tear down								
Chape	roning at school concerts								
•	roning field trips or festivals (this could be during the school day or school)								
Collec	ting and counting fund-raising money during the school day								
	ting during the school day with things such as paperwork, filing, copying music, or sorting music								
Assist	ting during the school day with computer data entry or typing								
Please list any b	usiness contacts you have that might be useful to the band program at some								
time:									
Parent(s) Name									
Student Name									
Best Contact #_	or								
Parent E-Mail _									
Days and times	available to work during the school day:								

Please review the full handbook available for download on Michael Teti's teacher webpage located on the OMS Website

THE "HANDBOOK FORM"

This form is DUE by ______ for a grade!

Parent/Guardian Email Addresses for Ola Band Email Messages (please write legibly)

Name_____Email Address_____

Name_____Email Address_____

"I have read and fully understand the contents of the OMS Band Handbook. We are aware of the policies, rules, regulations, and consequences involved with being in the band program and agree to abide by them. I understand that these policies are instituted for the purpose of helping the band program to run smoothly, effectively, and efficiently and that ALL members of the band program are equally essential in helping to make this happen."

Please circle your band period:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Student Name – PRINTED			Grad	Grade			
Student's Signature			Date				
Parent's/Guardian Names – PRINTED							
Parent's/Guardian Signature			Date				
Home Phone(s)	-						
Mobile Phone(s)	-		Work	Phone(s	6)		