

2019-2020 Scarsdale Middle School Sixth Grade Band
Band Handbook
Mr. Lieto

Name _____

Day _____ Period _____

Welcome to Scarsdale Middle School and the Sixth Grade Band!

This is a very exciting time for you as you begin your middle school experience! I look forward to working with you all!

Please read this information carefully in class and at home with your parents. Please keep this outline in your folder and return the **signature page** to me by Wednesday, September 11th. Extra credit will be given if the form is signed and handed in prior to the 11th!

Supplies & Materials

STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE ALL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS BY OUR SECOND CLASS. ('A' Day Classes - 9/5, 'B' Day classes - 9/6).

Please be prepared with the following:

1. Instrument and appropriate supplies
 - a. See below for supplies by instrument
 - b. ***PERCUSSIONISTS, please check below DRUMSTICK and BELL SET**
- INFORMATION**
2. Luggage Tag on instrument case. Stickers are more likely to fall off or become illegible, and many instrument cases and brands are the same. Please affix a luggage tag to the handle of your instrument case.
3. Band folder (Students will receive a folder in class that will be brought to and from school.)
4. Method Book/sheet music (Students will receive these items in school they should be kept in their folder.)
5. Pencils!!!! STUDENTS WILL NEED TO HAVE A PENCIL FOR CLASS EVERY DAY. Please keep a couple pencils in your instrument case and/or your band folder.
6. Music Stand (for home practicing) – can be purchased for around \$10-\$15 online or at a local music store. Folding metal stands are great for this purpose! (*Strongly recommended*)
7. Metronome - There are many free Apple and Android APPs. Also, you can try an online metronome for free, such as <http://www.metronomeonline.com/> (*Strongly recommended*)

Supplies by Instrument

Drums (Percussion) - drum pad, bell set, and stick bag with mallets, sticks, etc.

1. In order to advance musically as a percussionist, it is highly recommended that you have your own stick bag with drum sticks, cymbal/marimba mallets, timpani mallets, and bell mallets. There are multiple packs available that include these items at various levels. These items should last your child through middle school and into or through high school (and on if well cared for). Here are the recommended stick/mallet packs (which include a stick bag). You can purchase/order these packs at most music stores or online.
 - a. Vic Firth EP2 Intermediate Education Pack
 - b. Innovative Percussion Intermediate Mallet Pack

** Note: Rock Band/Guitar Hero, etc. drum sticks are not appropriately weighted for snare drum skill (multiple bounce, roll, stick control) development and should not be used for practicing or in class. Below are a list of recommended sticks.*

1. A practice pad (or snare drum) (required for home practicing)
2. A 2 ½ octave (or larger) bell set with mallets (required for home practicing)

Flute

1. Cleaning rod and cleaning cloth for the inside of the instrument (a handkerchief will do, and the cleaning rod should come with the instrument when you rent or purchase it.) **(strongly recommended)**
2. Cleaning (polishing) cloth for the outside of the instrument **(optional)**

Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, and Saxophone

1. A supply of reeds – at least 3 playable reeds at all times (I recommend purchasing a box, which is more cost effective and will last your child longer; size 2 is appropriate for beginners. 2.5 or higher will be recommended to more accomplished players (clarinet and sax). Highly recommended brands are Vandoren and Mitchell Lurie. **(Reeds are required, though the brand may vary.) *Oboists and Bassoonists might make his/her own reeds or have a private teacher who makes reeds.**
2. A cleaning swab/cloth for the inside of the instrument – sold by size for each instrument, specifically **(required)**

Trumpet, French Horn, Baritone Horn, Tuba

1. Valve oil **(required)** (**ROTOR OIL – French Horn**)
2. Slide grease (for the tuning slide) **(required)**
3. Mouthpiece cleaning brush **(strongly recommended for home cleaning under warm water with mild dish soap as needed)**
4. Cleaning (polishing) cloth for the outside of the instrument **(optional)**

Trombone

1. Slide oil/slide grease **(required)**
2. Mouthpiece cleaning brush **(strongly recommended for home cleaning under warm water with mild dish soap as needed)**
3. Cleaning (polishing) cloth for the outside of the instrument **(optional)**

Social Courtesies and Guidelines

1. The student should always conduct him/herself in such a manner as to bring pride to the school, to the student, to his/her parents and to the group that he/she represents.
2. BAND LOCKERS (assigned at the beginning of the year) are to be used during the school day and are to be emptied at the end of the day. The lockers are designed to be used to store instruments and folders while the students are in their other classes and are not locked. Instruments/folders are to be taken home at the end of the school day for practicing.
3. Students who store their instruments in the MUSIC INSTRUMENT STORAGE ROOM or use a school instrument (larger instruments only) are expected to pack up neatly, close/latch their instrument case after every class, and store their instrument in their assigned storage locker. Many students use the storage room during the course of a day, and it must be kept clean and safe for all. If a student is unable to use the storage room or band lockers appropriately, he/she will no longer be able to use their band locker or the storage room.
4. Students are expected to use appropriate posture and technique when playing their instrument.
5. There will be NO gum, food or candy in the classroom or during a performance.
6. No playing of any instrument other than your own (specifically for woodwind and brass students).
7. **Affix your name clearly to your instrument case using a luggage tag.** This is critical as students from all four houses and all three grades use the band room and music storage area! INSTRUMENTS MUST BE LABELED!
8. It is recommended that you keep a record of your instrument make/model and serial number at home, in a personal file.
9. Instruments and music folders are to be brought to every class, morning rehearsal, and performance.
10. Arriving on time for classes, rehearsals, and performances is absolutely necessary.

Repairs

Instruments should be kept in working order at all times. If you rent an instrument, please contact your rental vendor for repair contract information. If you've purchased your instrument, I can recommend local music stores for repairs.

Morning Rehearsals & Concert Information

Early Morning Rehearsals

BEGINNING in OCTOBER, SIXTH GRADE BAND STUDENTS WILL HAVE ONE EARLY MORNING REHEARSAL PER WEEK BEGINNING AT **7:20 AM**. The schedule is posted on my schoolwires site as soon as possible.

WE WILL START PLAYING AT 7:20 AM. Please drop your child off in time for them to be seated and ready to warm-up at 7:15. Extra credit will be given to those students that are seated prior to 7:25! Tardiness is not appropriate as it interrupts the experience for all the students. It is expected that students are ready to rehearse at 7:20 AM. Rehearsals will be every **THURSDAY** morning unless otherwise noted. A full schedule is posted on my schoolwires website.

<https://www.scarsdaleschools.k12.ny.us/Page/17102>

Concerts

*** Please note, students will participate in a winter and spring concert, which occur during the second and fourth quarters of the year.**

***Both concerts begin at 7:00 P.M.**

Attendance is mandatory for both concerts. Unexcused absences will be reflected adversely in the student's quarterly grade. Absences will be excused for personal illness or family emergency only. Please be aware that attendance at concerts is mandatory unless personal illness, or a family emergency makes it impossible. The music department regards concerts as carrying the weight of a midterm, or final exam. Absence from a concert, then, will result in the lowering of that quarter's grade. This is in no way intended to reflect negatively on the importance of the various possible conflicts that may arise. In fact, such a judgment would be entirely inappropriate. Rather, it is intended to reflect our regard for the importance of the commitment students make to contribute what they have learned to the success of the ensemble. Each student's effort is important and significant, and each student's musical spirit matters to the authenticity and integrity of the group's performance. Please recall that this policy was first outlined in the fifth grade Middle School Music Program selection materials.

Winter Concert: Monday, December 9th at 7:00 PM

(Students will need to arrive at 6:30 PM.)

Spring Concert: Tuesday, May 12th, 2020 at 7:00 PM

(Students will need to arrive at 6:30PM.)

Concert Attire

Concert attire should be white on top and black on bottom. Acceptable attire could include; White collared shirt or blouse, black or very dark skirt or dress slacks, and, dark shoes. Boys should wear ties.

CONCERT ATTIRE



Grading Information

Each quarter, your child's grade will be based on the following categories: Participation & Ensemble Etiquette, Class Preparation, Early Morning Rehearsals, and Musical Preparedness (evidence of home practice) & Ensemble Skills. Please see below for the grading rubric.

Grading Categories

1- Daily Band Participation - See Daily Participation Rubric below (40%)

2- Assignments - See Instrumental Skills Rubric below (45%)

- Home and in class (ie. performance assignments)
- In class activities (ie. class materials/reflections)

3- Early Morning Rehearsal Participation/Attendance (15%)

- **Musical Participation during rehearsals and classes**

Each student will actively participate as student musicians in rehearsal by:

- ▢ Being present, on time and actively playing during rehearsal.
- ▢ Showing evidence of home practice, including playing assessments.
- ▢ Being prepared for class with all materials and caring for instruments.
- ▢ Demonstrating proper warm-up technique.
- ▢ Retaining, analyzing, critiquing, and performing the repertoire being studied.
- ▢ Participating in the Winter and Spring Concerts.

- **Contributory Participation**

Each student will:

- ▢ Contribute positively to the ensemble by treating all members with respect.
- ▢ Listen actively during class discussions.
- ▢ Actively participate in class discussion by volunteering responses, answering questions, or asking questions to gather information.
- ▢ Record information in his/her manuscript book and music that is new and/or needed for future reference.

- **Written Assignments**

- Each student **may** receive homework, tests and assessments throughout the year.

The following two rubrics that are listed will be used during the school year.

Band Daily Participation Rubric

Category	Advanced 10	Strong 8	Developing 6	Beginning 4
Engagement and Active Class Participation & Positive Musical Environment Willing to help and share knowledge in class and is a team player				
Preparation for Class Consistently has all materials, including instrument, music, pencil and instrument-specific supplies (playable reeds, valve oil, mallets)				
Punctuality Arrives for class on time and promptly begins unpacking/warming up/do now procedures				
Instrument Care and Maintenance Puts away instrument/supplies, cleans instrument, etc.				
Playing Position/Posture Demonstrating consistent appropriate instrument posture including, for percussionists, proper stick grip, proper body position when playing etc.				

Daily Rubric on next page

Instrumental Skills Rubric

Category	Advanced 10	Strong 8	Developing 6	Beginning 4
Pitch Pitches (Notes) - notes performed accurately, including key signature and accidentals				
Intonation Understanding tuning concepts and able to apply them				
Tone Quality The production of sound/tone. Goal - Warm, Open and overall improvement tone.				
Rhythm Accurate performance of rhythms and rhythmic patterns (ex. quarter notes, dotted quarter etc..)				
Tempo Steady tempo, change in tempo where appropriate and overall appropriate tempo				
Articulation Tongue, Slur, Accents, Staccato, Legato, Marcato ETC..				
Dynamics Various degrees of volume - Loud (f) , Soft/Quiet (p), Crescendo Decrescendo etc.				

Extra-Curricular Performance Opportunities

6th Grade Jazz Band (All-District Jazz Band)

Dr. Slotwinski, Director

The 6th grade jazz band is an energetic, wonderful group that learns and performs a variety of Jazz styles. This ensemble affords the students with the opportunity to learn how to read and phrase jazz, as well as how to improvise. Rehearsals are on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 PM. The 6th Grade Jazz Band performs a minimum of two times per year. Please speak with Dr. Slotwinski for more details (jslotwinski@scarsdaleschools.org).

The Chamber Winds

Mr. Nick Lieto, Director

This brass and woodwind ensemble rehearses on Monday mornings at 7:30 AM and performs smaller group chamber-style music. It is a wonderful opportunity to get small group instruction while strengthening musicianship skills. This ensemble performs at both the Winter and Spring concerts. Please contact Mr. Lieto for more information (nlieto@scarsdaleschools.org).

Percussion Ensemble

Dr. Slotwinski, Director

The Percussion Ensemble is a mixed grade group that meets during the second half of the year.

Rehearsal dates and times TBD.

This ensemble begins in January. Please speak with Dr. Slotwinski for more details. (jslotwinski@scarsdaleschools.org).

Please sign and return the next page.

**Scarsdale Middle School Sixth Grade Band
Course Outline Signature Page**

**Please sign below and return this page to Mr. Lieto by
September 11th.**

Student Name_____

Day _____ **Period**_____

Student Signature_____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____