

Canfield Village  
Middle School

Band

Handbook

2017 - 2018

This band handbook has been written for members of the Canfield Middle School Band and their families with the intent of providing information about the various phases and activities of the instrumental music program. This handbook also contains a curriculum guide outlining the band program in grades 5 - 8. We realize you have a lot of reading material from all your child's teacher's at the beginning of the year, but please take the time to READ ALL OF THE HANDBOOK.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Canfield Middle School Bands are a well-rounded program which has been carefully developed and structured to benefit students in a positive manner. Participation in band results in more than simply learning to play a musical instrument. Through the study of music, students experience high levels of self-expression, creativity, discipline, cooperation and achievement. The CMS band promotes the development of skills that are necessary for success in all future endeavors. Music participation enhances and promotes respect for self and others, problem solving, goal setting, coordination, memory skills, self-confidence, teamwork, commitment, and a host of other skills and attitudes that help students prepare for the world around them. The band program actually spans eight years as students begin in fifth grade and many continue their involvement through their senior year at Canfield High School.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

It is our commitment that all students in the CMS band program develop a lifelong appreciation for the value of music in their lives. We realize that after they graduate, most of our students will enjoy music as listeners much more often than as performers. Through our rehearsals, we will instill a strong sense of self-discipline, self-motivation, and an inner drive for excellence. From our performance opportunities, students will gain the self-confidence to know that anything is possible if they are willing to utilize all of their talents and work together. You only get out of it what you put into it. Through our social relationships within music, they will develop life-long memories and friendships that are bonded by the variety of activities they will share. Most of all, we hope students will view music as an experience that has a positive effect on their lives.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. To help our students develop the technical skills necessary to play a musical instrument both as a solo instrumentalist as well as a member of an ensemble.
2. To help our students develop the skills necessary to read music notation.
3. To help our students understand and develop the discipline that is required to successfully play an instrument.

4. To teach our students about the care and maintenance of their instrument.
5. To encourage a sense of responsibility towards the community by emphasizing that in an ensemble, success is measured by the combined effort of all. TEAMWORK WORKS!
6. To encourage outstanding character and citizenship.
7. To help our students discover satisfaction and joy in making music.

### **ENSEMBLE DESCRIPTIONS**

Band is a specialized class. It is important that the parent/guardian and the student understand the expectations. Band is a co-curricular class. As a class, we follow the same state standards and outcomes as an academic class. Band students receive a grade for their performance, participation, and conduct in class. As a co-curricular class, band will involve various after school events such as rehearsals and most importantly, Concerts/Contests. *Students' participation in all band activities is therefore a portion of every student's band grade.* Band also requires time spent practicing each week, as well purchasing or rent/lease of an instrument and some equipment. Band is yearlong class. Once the school year starts, there will be no change to the student's schedule.

#### **5th Grade Band**

Band instruction begins in the fifth grade for students with no band instrument playing experience. Fifth grade band meets once a week in full band and two days a week in like grouped instrument sectionals. Instruction and evaluation are at the first-year playing level. In fifth grade band, instruction is focused on the following. Proper playing and proper practice habits. Fundamentals of music. Instrument care and maintenance. *The fifth grade band is required to perform at the holiday concert, the CBP Pasta Dinner/Chinese Auction, and the spring concert.*

#### **6th Grade Band**

Sixth grade band meets once a week in full band and two days a week in like grouped instrument sectionals. Instruction and evaluation are at the second-year playing level. For student's wishing to start band in sixth grade, they will be required to take private lessons for at least all of sixth grade in order to get caught up to playing level. In sixth grade band, instruction is focused on the following. Proper playing and proper practice habits. Fundamentals of music. Continued care and maintenance of instrument. Further skill development. Detailed rehearsal of music for performance. *The sixth grade band is required to perform at the holiday concert, the CBP Pasta Dinner/Chinese Auction, and the spring concert.*

## **7th Grade Band**

Seventh grade band meets daily as a class during the school day. Instruction and evaluation are at the third-year playing level. Students moving into Canfield wishing to join seventh grade band will be required to take private lessons for two years in order to get caught up to playing level. In seventh grade band, instruction is focused on the following. Proper playing and practice habits. Fundamentals of music. Further skill development. Detailed rehearsal of music for performance. Sight reading various types of music. Music theory and history. *The seventh grade band is required to perform at the holiday concert, the CBP Pasta Dinner/Chinese Auction, the spring concert, and the OMEA District 5 Large Group Adjudicated Event. Members are encouraged to participate in OMEA D5 solo and ensemble adjudicated event. (This event is optional)*

## **8th Grade Band**

Eighth grade band meets daily as a class during the school day. Instruction and evaluation are at the fourth-year playing level. In eighth grade band, instruction is focused on the following. Proper playing and practice habits. Fundamentals of music. Further skill development. Detailed rehearsal of music for performance. Sight reading various types of music. Music theory and history. *The eighth grade band is required to perform at one home varsity football game with the Canfield High School Marching Pride, the holiday concert, the CBP Pasta Dinner/Chinese Auction, the spring concert, and the OMEA District 5 Large Group Adjudicated Event. Members are encouraged to participate in OMEA D5 solo and ensemble adjudicated event. (This event is optional)*

## **CONCERT ATTIRE**

It is extremely important that we look as good as we sound. Performing in public calls for uniformity in dress. We are always representing ourselves, our school, and our community in a positive manner. All members must adhere to the following dress code. Each band member must wear black dress pants, black dress socks, black dress shoes and a black dress belt. Each member will purchase a red band polo shirt through the Canfield Band Parents, Inc. Polo shirts must be tucked in with no white or colored t-shirt worn under the polo shirt. If any band member needs assistance obtaining any of the above clothing articles, please contact the band director.

## **SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**

Having the right equipment can make a big difference in the success or failure of a music student! Without proper reeds, oil, grease, sticks, etc., a student cannot play up to his or her full potential. In some cases, having the necessary supplies can affect the life or death of a musical instrument! Parents, protect your investment! Because many items look exactly alike, ALL items must have the student's name clearly written on the outside where visible. The following is a list of general supplies needed by each band student. *A wire music stand at home to promote proper playing habits while practicing.*

**General supplies:**

1 inch 3 ring binder with a minimum of 25 sheet protector windows. Binder MUST be in good condition or the director will notify the parent and student that a new one needs purchased. More windows will need to be added as needed. Method book(s), handouts, sheet music, and all homework papers must be kept in binder.

Pencil with eraser to be kept in instrument case and brought to class each day. Place pencil on music stand each class period.

Name tag on each case with first and last name clearly printed and phone number.

First and last name clearly marked on all binders, books, etc.

**Woodwind players:**

Clarinet and Saxophone: 4 good working reeds in a reed guard at all times. A student is not allowed to play on a broken or chipped reed. Brand and strength to be determined by the teacher. Oboe and Bassoon: 2 good working reeds at all times. Ask private instructor for specifics. Flute: Tuning rod and a cleaning cloth. Clarinet, Saxophone, Oboe, and Bassoon: Swab, cork grease, and a mouthpiece cleaning brush.

**Brass players:**

Valve oil (trumpet, baritone, tuba) Rotary oil (French horn) Slide oil (trombone). Tuning slide grease for all brass instruments. Mouthpiece cleaning brush, cleaning snake, and polishing cloth.

**Percussion players:**

You will need your own drum pad/stand and sticks in school each day. You will be notified when practice bells are needed at school.

**FEES**

Students who play a school owned instrument such as oboe, bassoon, French horn, baritone, and tuba will be assessed an instrument user fee. A \$60.00 check made payable to Canfield Board of Education or cash along with a signed contract must be on file in the band office by the end of September. Percussion students are assessed a \$35.00 user fee for the use and maintenance of all percussion equipment.

## **GRADING**

The main focus of the CVMS band program is to provide the student with the opportunity to succeed. Band is primarily a performance-based class. Therefore, grades are primarily based on performance.

1. Performance Participation - Performance is the ultimate goal of any band. Therefore, ***ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY at every performance***. A performance is the equivalent of a major unit exam in other subject areas, but because band is a team activity, it cannot be made up. Please mark all performance dates on your family calendar to avoid unnecessary conflicts.

2. Participation - The student comes to rehearsal with instrument, music, pencil, supplies, etc. The student is always attentive, on task and participating to the best of their ability. They follow directions and are engaged in the learning process.

3. Playing Grades - Several playing grades will be administered throughout the year. Most playing grades will include material that has been covered in class. The playing grade may consist of excerpts from method books, concert music, handouts, etc. Some playing grades may consist of sight-reading material.

4. Written Work - Homework will cover material that we are currently learning in class. This is an opportunity to extend learning beyond the confines of the school day. Tests and quizzes will cover material that we have learned in class. This is another way of assessing student growth and progress other than performance.

## **WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK.....**

Sometimes, students and parents assume they cannot play their instrument if they have a cold, sore throat, or braces were just tightened. On the contrary, for the most part, playing an instrument while slightly "under the weather" will not add to the symptoms. Each student is expected to play to the best of their ability unless experiencing severe pain. If a student is too ill to play but not too ill to be in school, we ***MUST*** receive a signed note from the parent/guardian for that particular day. For that day ***ONLY***, the note will excuse the student from playing their instrument but ***NOT FROM PARTICIPATING IN CLASS***. Students will be expected to participate in the lesson and learn through fingering their instrument, reading the music, and listening.

**SIGNATURE PAGE**  
**CANFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND**

**STUDENT AGREEMENT - PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN**

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This is to certify that I have read the 2017 - 18 Canfield Middle School Band Handbook and Calendar of Events. I hereby agree to abide by all stated policies and procedures, including participation at all required performing events. I understand that band is a "team" activity and as such, requires the full cooperation of each and every member in order for the band to realize its full potential. I agree to do my best at all times to help the band achieve this goal.

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Student name - PLEASE PRINT

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Student name - PLEASE SIGN

**PARENT AGREEMENT**

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This is to certify that I/We have read the 2017 – 18 Canfield Middle School Band Handbook and Calendar of Events. I/We hereby agree to abide by all stated policies and procedures, including participation at all required performing events. I/We understand that band is a "team" activity and as such, requires the full cooperation of each and every member in order for the band to realize its full potential.

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Parent/Guardian name - PLEASE PRINT

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Parent/Guardian name - PLEASE SIGN

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Parent/Guardian name - PLEASE PRINT

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Parent/Guardian name - PLEASE SIGN