**Dixon Middle School**



**Mariner Band**

**2014-15**

**Dixon Middle School Mariner Band Handbook**

**CHECK US OUT!**

We are on the web! All of the information in this handbook and much more is on our new website. Forms for ordering supplies, books, repair; calendar of events; meet the director – all on the website.

[www.dixonmiddleschoolband.weebly.com](http://www.dixonmiddleschoolband.weebly.com)

When visiting the band website, please go to the Edmodo and Remind page and sign up!

**GRADES**

Ensemble grade = 50%

ML 2 = Interpret the sound and symbols of music

ML 3 = Create music using a variety of sound and notational sources

MR 1 = Understand the interacting elements to respond to music and music performances.

ML 1 = Apply the elements of music and musical technique in order to sing and play music with accuracy and expression.

Performance grade = 20%

ML 1 = Apply the elements of music and musical technique in order to sing and play music with accuracy and expression.

MR 1 = Understand the interacting elements to respond to music and music performances.

Tests = 20%

Can be taken from any of the Standard’s objectives

Contextual Relevancy Grade (CRG) = 10% (Projects, notebooks, vocabulary, homework, practice cards)

CR 1 = Understand global, interdisciplinary, and 21st century connections with music.

**Homework:** Band students will have homework EVERY DAY. Homework may consist of practicing, listening to specific examples, participating in an Edmodo discussion, using Googlevoice to record a section of music, music theory exercises, etc.

Consistent daily practice is the most effective way to improve playing. We do not “practice” during class or in after school rehearsals; we work to refine and polish the music, which has already been practiced individually at home.

Therefore, **students will be required to practice a minimum of 30 minutes a day or 3.5 hours a week**. Students will log this time on their weekly practice cards and turn them in each Friday.

**Tests:** Students will have regular tests. Most tests will be announced in advance to give students an opportunity to prepare. Tests, both written and playing, will be administered to monitor student achievement and progress. Playing tests are not intended to embarrass or frighten students, but to monitor ability and progress. If a student should miss a test due to absence, in may be taken on the day of their return. Playing tests will be given either one by one in front of the class, recording on SmartMusic in class or using Google Voice at home.

**Concerts:** Band is a performance-based course, and attendance to concerts is required. Students must arrive on time, with the appropriate dress and materials at the scheduled warm-up time. Concerts grades are 20% of the student’s grade that grading period.

An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade for that performance. Only in cases of extreme emergency or personal illness will a person be excused from a performance. In the case of an emergency, call the director immediately (910-382-1437). Excused absences must be approved by the director. Any absence which is not brought to the director’s attention for approval prior to the performance will be considered unexcused.

All daily Ensemble related grades are 50% of the overall 9 weeks grade. Playing or written exams are 30% , Performance grades are 20% and Contextual Relevancy grades such as written exercises, such as theory or notebooks are 10% of the overall 9 weeks grade. ***Students who are absent the day of the assignment have three days to turn in the assignment upon their return.***

**CONCERT UNIFORM** - The concert uniform (for all grades) consists of the following:

Ladies – Conservative black blouse or top (white for 6th)

Black dress pants or skirt

(skirt ankle length only)

Blue Tie (we will order through school)\* (7th and 8th only)

Black dress shoes

(No high heels, chunky, clunky or

tennis shoes)

Men – Black long sleeve, button down dress shirt (white for 6th)

Blue tie (we will order through school)\* (7th and 8th only get blue, 6th any color)

Black dress pants

Black belt

Black socks (long socks, not no shows)

Black dress shoes

(no loafers or tennis shoes)

**Shoes with colored trim are not acceptable! Hair music look neat.**

**MATERIALS**

Students should bring the following materials everyday to class:

**6th Grade (Prices are based on Fuller’s Music and may be purchased through them at the prices below or through another source.)**

**All Students**

Pencils

1 spiral notebook/composition book

2 pocket folders

Method Book – *Tradition of Excellence* (Nowlin & Pearson) Book 1

(Flute/Clarinet/Saxophone/Trombone/Trumpet - $10, Horn - $11, Percussion - $13)

Theory Book – *Excellence in Theory* (Nowlin & Pearson) Book 1 (all books $7)

**Clarinets and Saxophones**

* At least 4 working reeds at all times. Recommended reeds are Mitchell Lurie or Vandoren. (Price varies on size and type of reed.)
* Reed Guard IV for reed storage ($5)
* Cork grease (should be included with instrument)

**Trumpets and Trombones**

* Valve Oil (should be included with instrument)
* Slide grease ($3.50)

**Percussion**

* Drum Stick Bag
* Vic Firth General SD1 Snare Sticks

**7th Grade (Prices are based on Fuller’s Music and may be purchased through them at the prices below or through another source.)**

**All Students**

Pencils

1 spiral notebook/composition notebook

2 pocket folders

Method Book – *Tradition of Excellence* (Nowlin & Pearson) Book 2

(Flute/Clarinet/Saxophone/Trombone/Trumpet - $10, Horn - $11, Percussion - $13)

Theory Book – *Excellence in Theory* (Nowlin & Pearson) Book 2 (all books $7)

**Flutes**

* Cleaning Rod (should be included with the instrument)
* Cleaning Swab ($10)
* \*Recommended – Care Kit $20 and includes all cleaning materials

**Reed Instruments**

* At least 4 working reeds at all times. Recommended reeds are Mitchell Lurie or Vandoren. (Price varies on size and type of reed.)
* Reed Guard IV for reed storage ($5) – Do not need if already have this.
* Cork grease (should be included with instrument) – May need to be replaced.
* Cleaning Swab ($10)
* \*Recommended – Care Kit $20 and includes all cleaning materials

**Brass Instruments**

* Valve Oil (should be included with instrument) – May need to be replaced.
* Slide grease ($3.50)
* \*Recommended – Care Kit $20 and includes all cleaning materials including brushes to clean slides.

**Percussion**

* Drum Stick Bag
* Vic Firth General SD1 Snare Sticks
* Innovative Medium-Soft Yarn Marimba mallets IP 240

**8th Grade (Prices are based on Fuller’s Music and may be purchased through them at the prices below or through another source.)**

**All students**

Pencils

1 spiral notebook/composition book

2 pocket folders

Method Book – *Tradition of Excellence* (Nowlin & Pearson) Book 3

(Flute/Clarinet/Saxophone/Trombone/Trumpet - $10, Horn - $11, Percussion - $13)

Theory Book – *Excellence in Theory* (Nowlin & Pearson) Book 3 -$7

**Flutes**

* Cleaning Rod (should be included with the instrument)
* Cleaning Swab ($10)
* \*Recommended – Care Kit $20 and includes all cleaning materials

**Reed Instruments**

* At least 4 working reeds at all times. Recommended reeds are Mitchell Lurie or Vandoren. (Price varies on size and type of reed.)
* Reed Guard IV for reed storage ($5) – Do not need if already have this.
* Cork grease (should be included with instrument) – May need to be replaced.
* Cleaning Swab ($10)
* \*Recommended – Care Kit $20 and includes all cleaning materials

**Brass Instruments**

* Valve Oil (should be included with instrument) – May need to be replaced.
* Slide grease ($3.50)
* \*Recommended – Care Kit $20 and includes all cleaning materials including brushes to clean slides.

**Percussion**

* Drum Stick Bag
* Vic Firth General SD1 Snare Sticks
* Innovative Medium-Soft Yarn Marimba mallets IP 240
* Innovative Medium Plastic Xylophone mallets IP 902
* **Can be purchased as a kit through Fuller’s Music for $95 instead of purchasing each separately for approximately $115**

**INSTRUMENT INFORMATION**

The band department may be able to provide instruments for those students who do not

own their own instrument. An instrument care agreement should be filled out and signed by the student and his/her parents at the beginning of the school year. Each band member is responsible for the proper care, condition and repairs of the instrument for the length of the agreements. Any damages or serious malfunctions should be reported to the director at once. Damages due to the negligence of the student will be charged to the student. If the instrument is lost or stolen while away from the band hall, the student must reimburse the band for the cost of the instrument.

If students are sharing a school owned instrument, individual students may be asked to purchase their own mouthpieces for the sake of cleanliness and health.

All privately owned instruments and percussion stick bags must have the student’s name clearly marked on the case at all times!

All privately owned instruments are the responsibility of the student who owns it. Students should check with a parent/guardian to see that the instrument is included on their homeowner’s insurance policy. Before purchasing an instrument, the student should consult with the band director.

All instruments should be kept in clean, working condition at all times. Should students need to take instruments to the shop for maintenance, students and parents should get an estimate on how long the instrument will be in the shop and communicate that with the director.

Students with maintenance agreements with Fuller’s Music that need to arrange for pick-up of the instrument, need to fill out the “Repair Permission Form” prior to the instrument going to the shop.

**Students are expected to have the necessary supplies for their instrument at all times.** Reed instruments should have at least four reeds in their cases at all times. Brass players should have valve oil, super slick, and any mutes needed. Percussion students should bring stick bag with sticks. ***Failure to have supplies for playing an instrument will result in a zero for that days ensemble grade.***

**INSTRUMENT STORAGE**

Instruments may be left in the band room during the school day. Students are to place their instruments in the assigned area(s). Students must take instruments home at the end of the day, however, students should not interrupt class to pick up an instrument when leaving school early.

Due to fire code, no instruments will be allowed in the yellow/blacked taped off area in the storage room. Instruments left in that area will be removed.

**BAND FOLDERS**

Every student will receive a folder to keep their method books and sheet music. Please note that folders should not be kept in instrument cases at any time! Although this seems convenient, it damages the instrument and the music. Students should make sure their name is clearly labeled on their folder!

**PORTFOLIOS**

Students will use the 2 pocket folders to create a portfolio of students work. Portfolios will be set up in a specific manner with examples of work throughout the year. Portfolios will be kept in individual student’s designated areas within the band room.

**USE AND CARE OF MUSIC**

* Returning music in the condition it was issued will be part of the student’s homework average.
* Do not fold, tear or otherwise mutilate music.
* Absence from school does not relieve student of the responsibility to have music

brought to the rehearsal or performance. This applies mainly to the music in concert folders.

* If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to make sure that they have received or turned in the proper music. There are extra parts in the front of the room with extra parts at all times.
* Each student will be expected to put music in the music cabinet after a rehearsal or performance.
* It is expected that music be placed in a music folder. Individual pieces of music should not be placed in lockers or book bags.
* Personally owned music or selections borrowed from the school library should not be kept in the music cabinet.

**ATTENDANCE POLICIES**

Band is a performing organization and high success may not be achieved unless the attendance policy is followed strictly. Band members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Students should be on time for all band functions.

Words of Wisdom: To be EARLY is to be on TIME, to be ON TIME is to be

LATE, to be LATE is be UNFORGIVEN!!

1. **Attendance**

According to Onslow County Board of Education policy, for a student to receive credit for a course they may not miss more than 10 days per semester. To receive credit for a course, a student, who is absent, is responsible for making up all assigned work regardless of the reason for absence.

If a student is absent from school, they must make up any missed work within 3 days of returning to class. No late work will be accepted.

Our staff believes that regular attendance and punctuality help to develop self-discipline and responsibility and that regular attendance is vital to each student’s education.

B. **Tardy to Rehearsal or Performance**

Attendance will always be taken at the beginning of all rehearsals. If a student is late, the student will be expected to report to the director to ensure he/she was not marked absent. Students must have a note. See DMS Handbook for policy.

1. **Special Rehearsals and Performances**

There will be some rehearsals before or after school to prepare for special events. All students are expected to be at after school rehearsals. Students will be notified of rehearsals at least two weeks in advance. If you cannot attend, you must discuss this with the director. Unexcused tardies to a special rehearsal will not be tolerated!!

**REHEARSAL PROCEDURES**

* Students are to report to class on time and be prepared to begin class with all materials. Book bags/computer bags should be placed neatly under the student’s chair.
* Every band member should bring instruments, music and proper equipment to every rehearsal or performance.
* **Each student should be seated at the time designated by the director or the student will be marked tardy. Attendance is taken at the beginning of class and at the beginning of every rehearsal.**
* There is to be **no individual playing before a rehearsal or at any time during a rehearsal unless the director specifically deems it necessary**. Instrument warm-up will be done together under the direction of the director.
* There is to be no talking or disturbance during rehearsals. Subdued talking is permitted with the director’s permission.
* Chewing gum or eating of any kind is not permitted during any rehearsal or performance.
* Posture is of the utmost importance. Students should avoid crossed legs or ankles and slumping when seated in chairs.
* The bulletin board and Smartboard should be read when entering the rehearsal room. Music should be placed in the proper order according to the instruction on the board.
* A weekly and monthly schedule will always be on the bulletin board to announce rehearsals and performances. These events will also be on the website calendar, calendar on the front bulletin board and announced on Edmodo. It is the responsibility of the student to check these regularly.
* Music folders, instruments, equipment, etc. should be kept in their proper storage places when not in use. Music and folders should not be left on the music stands.
* The band room is not a locker facility for the storage of gym supplies and other school books. Books and personal belongings should not be left in the band room or in the instrument storage areas. **Failure to put away personal belongings will be reflected in the students participation grade. Also, students will risk the disposal of unattended personal items.** All trash should be thrown in the waste container. Students may not bring school books, book bags or lunches to their seats.
* Loud talking, shouting or horseplay is not allowed in the band department.
* Personal phone calls are not permitted except calls made to parents after rehearsals or performances. **This includes the use of cell phones.** Failure to comply with this rule will result in having the cell phone taken away and parents must come to school to retrieve it.
* If a student does not have his/her instrument, he or she receives a zero for that day’s ensemble grade. The only exception is when the instrument is in the shop for repairs. An assignment will be given to the student as a substitution.
* Students who cannot play during a rehearsal for reasons of health must sit in their own chairs and observe the class. Students may also be asked to help with secretarial duties.
* **The use of the bathroom during rehearsal will be closely monitored and permission will only be granted in an emergency**. Students with medical conditions may use the restroom whenever needed provided there is medical documentation on file.

**PRIVATE INSTRUCTION**

Private lessons are a tremendous aid in the development of a student’s musical knowledge, and improve the overall quality of the band. Any student interested in studying privately should see the band director for recommendations.

**DIXON MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK**

**STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT**

**(HANDBOOK IS LOCATED ON THE DIXON MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND WEBSITE –** [**www.dioxnmiddlesc**](http://www.dioxnmiddlesc)**hoolband.weebly.com)**

As a member of the Dixon Middle School Mariner Band, I have read and agree to comply with all of the set policies of the band handbook.

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Student’s Signature Date

As a conscientious parent/guardian, I have read and agree to comply with the set policies of the band handbook.

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Parent/Guardian’s Signature Date