

# Sandburg Middle School Band/Orchestra/Choir Handbook

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<b>Sandburg Middle School</b> <a href="http://sandburg.elmhurst205.org">http://sandburg.elmhurst205.org</a>		
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## Mission Statement

It is our goal to prepare each student for the appreciation and performance of music. They will learn music ranging from historically significant works to modern masterpieces. They will also develop their abilities as well-rounded musicians. Each student who has completed this program will be a competent musician with a strong knowledge of fundamentals, terminology, and technical ability. It is our goal to instill in them an appreciation of music that they will in turn pass on to those around them. All students will be rewarded for their hard work and dedication to the program, as well as being prepared to continue onward in the field of music.

## Daily Rehearsals

The rehearsal calendar is available on the Sandburg Music Department website. Students involved in both instrumental and vocal music are responsible for knowing their rehearsal schedule. Students enrolled in two ensembles are expected to know all material taught in both ensembles, and be able to perform all music at an acceptable level.

Seventh and eighth grade students meet every during E-Block 1. The sixth grade ensembles meet every day during E-Block 3.

## Weekly Before School Rehearsals

All students have a weekly before school rehearsal from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. The choir students come before school on Tuesdays, and instrumental students meet on Thursdays.

Students that arrive before the 7:15 a.m. bell will remain quietly on the first floor outside the gym balcony. After the bell rings, students go to lockers, pick up all necessary materials, and report immediately to the rehearsal space. There is a one minute warning bell before class begins. Students need to be in their seat with music and pencil when this bell rings.

## Technique Classes for Band and Orchestra

Once a week, instrumental students have a required small group class in which they receive more individualized instruction and assessment. Technique classes differ from full ensemble instruction in that they focus specific attention on individual concepts rather than general aspects of large ensemble musicianship and pedagogy. These classes rotate throughout the school day. Even though the students are excused from their class to attend technique class, they are still responsible for any material covered in that class. If a student is absent from technique class, he/she should meet with the director within the week to schedule a make up.

## Classroom Environment

The rehearsal rooms are rooms shared with hundreds of students. Therefore, students will be expected to respect all equipment and personal property as if it were their own. This includes stands, chairs, auditorium seats, audio equipment, musical equipment, and piano or other instruments. Food and drinks, with the exception of water, are not allowed.

## Expectations

1. Bring your own binder and pencil to ALL rehearsals.
2. Use correct posture and be attentive to the director.
3. Follow rehearsal directions and stop singing or playing immediately when the director stops conducting.
4. Refrain from talking or leaving seat without the director's permission.
5. Unless it is an emergency, please do not interrupt class to ask the director to use the restroom facilities.

Failure to abide by these expectations will result in a conference with the director. Severe or repeated infractions will result in office disciplinary action.

# Required Materials

## All Instrumental Students

Instruments need to be in good working condition, with all necessary supplies and accessories. If you choose to send your instrument for repair through our recommended vendor, Quinlan and Fabish, a loaner instrument will be provided to your child at school. A representative comes to Sandburg on Tuesdays to facilitate pickup and delivery of instruments and supplies.

## Band Students (\*denotes optional)

Band Binder with 5 tabs, Method Book, Solo Book, Pencil, Music Stand (for home and touring), Metronome\*, Tuner\*

- Woodwind - Backup reeds, Cork Grease, Cleaning Swab
- Brass - Valve or Rotor Oil, Slide Grease, BERP\*
- Percussion - Concert sticks (Such as Vic Firth SD1), Plastic Bell Mallets (from kit), Hard Rubber Mallets, Yarn Mallets, Stick Bag (Information about appropriate mallets will be available at the beginning of the year.)

## Orchestra Students (\*denotes optional)

Orchestra Binder with 5 tabs, Method Book, Pencil, Rosin, Cleaning Cloth, Music Stand (for home and touring), Metronome\*, Tuner\*

- Violin and Viola – Shoulder Rest
- Cello and Bass – Rock Stops

## All Choir Students

Choir Folder, Music, Sight-singing Materials, Solfege Materials, Pencil, Calendar

# Concerts

The concerts that we give are extremely important for the students, parents, and community. The students in these ensembles have spent many hours in preparation. Please show your support by inviting other family members and friends to attend with you.

## Concert and Event Attendance

The vocal and instrumental ensembles are interdependent ensembles, which rely on the participation of all its members in order to have a successful performance. Please inform the directors of any conflicts at least two weeks in advance. We appreciate as much advance notice as possible for unforeseen circumstances such as illness, family emergencies. A teacher-assigned relevant makeup assignment will be given to make up the missing grade, regardless of reason for absence. An unexcused absence (defined by the school handbook)

from a concert will be reflected on their report card. The mandatory concerts and assemblies include the Fall/Winter Concert, District Festivals, and Spring Concert. The dates for all of these are available online at the Sandburg Music Website.

## Concert Attire for all Ensembles

Long sleeved, collared, white, button-down shirt.  
Full length black pants (no skirts or Capri gauchos)  
Black socks  
Black dress shoes (solid color, non-logoed, flats)

## Other Events

For assemblies and other music department events the students in the Sandburg Music Department will wear a red polo shirt with full length black pants. Shirts with the Sandburg Music Department logo can be ordered at the beginning of the year, or you can choose to provide your own red polo shirt.

## Private Lessons

At this level, school rehearsals and sectionals generally focus on music for performance, while private lessons generally focus on individual technique development, with emphasis on scales, etudes and solo literature. Students planning to continue in music at York High School are especially encouraged to enroll in private lessons to facilitate an easier transition to the high school music program. Please see [eimb205.com](http://eimb205.com) for a list of area teachers.