

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

Dear Music Parent or Guardian,

Welcome back to another exciting year at Wilson Middle School! This year, WMS musicians will be able to participate in a number of performances, special activities, and other musical experiences. In order to provide the best learning environment possible, expectations for the year have been detailed below. Once you and your son or daughter have read the information, please sign the bottom portion and return it to class by Thursday, September 5. Students will not be allowed to **bring** their instruments **to school** until this portion has been returned. Good luck on a great start!

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Band and Orchestra Expectations:**

1. Band and orchestra students are committed to their group for the entire school year.
2. Students are required to supply their own instrument and keep it in good repair.
3. Students are required to practice, and show up with their part learned for the day.
4. Students must come to class prepared: 1” three-ring music binder, instrument, book, supplies, handouts, pencil, positive attitude!
5. **Required/Graded performances are listed on attached calendar.**
6. **Grading** is based on: Daily Participation (playing, listening, responsible behavior) 50%; Written work 10%; Quizzes (playing) 15%; and Performances 25%. Extra credit is always available for extra practice, music research, or attending outside performances!

**Daily Participation 50%** is based on students playing their best every day, **having their materials**, actively listening to other sections and fingering along when it is not their turn to play, listening to announcements, participating in discussions, and behaving responsibly by showing respect for others and for classroom equipment.

**Written Work 10%** includes bell work, rhythmic dictation, in-class assignments, and occasional written homework and tests.

**Quizzes 15%** consist of short individual performances. Home practice time is vital to student and ensemble success!!! There is no set amount of practice time required although 90 minutes each week is recommended, and should be sufficient for most students to score well on their individual playing quizzes. Quiz selections are taken from our concert pieces and technical exercises.

**Performances 25%** Music is a performance based subject and all parts are interrelated, so attendance at concerts is mandatory. (See emergency absence policy below.) Please post the attached performance schedule somewhere prominent in your home. Concert dress is a white dress shirt, blouse or sweater, black dress pants or a skirt, and black shoes.

**Absence Policy:**

If an unavoidable conflict with a concert occurs, like an illness or family emergency, send a signed note, email [daym@wy.k12.mi.us](mailto:daym@wy.k12.mi.us), or contact the director as soon as possible at (734) 759-5393. Voicemail may be left any time of day or night. A make-up assignment usually takes the place of an excused absence, and may consist of playing concert music privately for the director and/or attending a concert and writing a critique. Not attending a concert because a student forgot or did not arrange for a ride in advance are examples of unexcused absences.

**Required book and supplies must be purchased from a music store, not available in band room:**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Book: Essential Elements Book 2 - required every rehearsal.**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade String Book: String Explorer Book 2 by Dabczynski, Meyer and Phillips**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band AND Strings: 1” three-ring binder and pencil**

**Flute**

small, soft cloth that fits in case  
cleaning rod

**Clarinet**

box of reeds (always keep 2 extra reeds in case)  
cleaning swab  
cork grease

**Saxophone**

box of reeds (always keep 2 extra reeds in case)  
cork grease  
neck strap  
cleaning swab

**Trumpet, Baritone, Tuba**

valve oil marked with student name  
straight mute, soft cloth  
snake and mouthpiece brush

**French Horn**

soft cloth and rotor oil

**Trombone**

snake and mouthpiece brush  
trombone **slide oil** marked with name  
soft cloth

**Violin, Viola**

Snark tuner, soft cloth  
rosin, extra set of strings  
shoulder rest/sponge

**Cello, Bass**

Snark tuner, soft cloth  
rosin and extra strings  
rock stop

**Percussion- required: Mark all with student name!**

**Stick bag, Vic Firth SD1 or 2B snare sticks**

**1pr medium hard rubber keyboard mallets (blue Balter Basics BB8 suggested)**

**1 pr medium hard yarn mallets (blue Balter Basics BB2 suggested)**

**Remo tunable practice pad and bell kit for home practice**

**1pr medium felt timpani mallets- encouraged (Vic Firth T1 suggested)**

As always, thank you for your continued musical support!!

Sincerely,

Mary Day, Michael Noble

Instrumental Music Directors, Wilson Middle School

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print student name and grade) have read the Wilson Middle School Band and Orchestra expectations, and agree to follow them. I will have all required supplies (listed above) with me in order to play on Friday, September 6.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(student signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(parent/guardian signature)

\*\*\*Detach and return by Thursday, September 6, in order to play your instrument in class!\*\*\*

\*DO NOT bring instruments and supplies until Friday, September 6\*