

FOLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND PACKET INFORMATION

Dear Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year of the Foley Middle School Band Program. I have lots of exciting items in store for all grades this year and look forward to working with each of you throughout the year. This letter contains important information that parents and students both need to be aware of. Please read through this information carefully and return the last page with signature.

NEEDED ITEMS

- **Working Instrument** – Hurst Music visits our school once a week for students using the “rent-to-own program. All instruments must stay in full working order. Students using a **school owned instrument** will be given a contract from Mrs. Garza for parents to sign and return. Students are responsible to cover damages and repairs to the instrument while under their care. However, I understand that many instruments can acquire wear and tear throughout the year.
- **Name Tag** – All student owned instruments **MUST** have a name tag of some sort. You can make your own and tie to the case handle or I have some I can provide.
- **Book** – **6th grade**: Essential Elements Book 1 (Gold),- buy through Mrs. Garza (\$10 cash/check)
7th grade: Essential Elements Book 2 (Red)- buy through Mrs. Garza (\$10 cash/check)
8th grade: Essential Elements Book 2 (Red) buy through Mrs Garza (\$10 cash/check)
- **Supplies** - Depending on the instrument students need to maintain their instrument by having sufficient supplies. Reeds, valve oil, slide grease, slide oil, rotor oil, etc.. If you are unsure what your child needs please email me. I do sell supplies at school however you may find better prices at Miles Ahead music in Richmond or online.
- **Instrument Locker**- Students will be assigned instrument lockers in the band room where they can easily access their instrument throughout the school day. Students may provide their own lock if they wish. They can drop these off in the mornings and come to get them at end of school day to take home to practice or leave at school.

GRADING

- Grades are based on a point scale.
- Daily Participation is worth 5 pts each day. Students are awarded this daily IF and only IF they have their instrument, book, pencil, music, and are an active and attentive participant.
- Playing tests are given occasionally and can range from 10 to 100 pts per test
- There is very little ‘written’ work in band. However, students are expected to actively participate in class. Students are encouraged to take their instrument home to practice (however often or little) based on each individual student’s need. There is NO requirement (does not need to be every single day). I ask that students do their best to assess whether they need more practice at home to keep up with the class.
- Band is considered a curricular class and performances outside of the school day are considered an extension of the school day. Therefore, **PERFORMANCES are MANDATORY!** Our band depends on every student. **YOU are important to an outstanding performance.** If you should have to miss a performance or special rehearsal, you must present a note or email from a parent

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to the Mrs. Garza 2 weeks prior to the performance. An unexcused absence could result in a nine-week grade being lowered from the student's current average.

Dropping Band Policy

ALL 7th/8th grade band students are given until FRIDAY, AUGUST 19 to make any schedule changes.

Once the first week is up, students can only drop band at the end of the nine weeks. **Dropping band must be accompanied with a signed parent note and students may be asked to meet with Mrs. Garza in person prior to the class actually being changed.**

Concert Attire (ALL CONCERTS ARE REQUIRED)

Please make sure that you have the following for each performance. It is unwise to wait until the night before the performance to tell your parents you need concert attire!

- 6th, 7th, and 8th GRADE BAND STUDENTS
 - Black Bottoms (pants or long dress)
 - Black top (button up shirt or dress top)
 - Black Shoes

The point of a uniform is so that the whole group looks the same. We don't want anyone to stick out and draw the audience's attention away from the music. Concerts are formal occasions and the performers should be dressed up! Thanks in advance for your cooperation. **If you are not able to purchase these items please contact Mrs. Garza as soon as possible and we can get something worked out.**

Anticipated Concert/Activity Dates for 2022-2023

The list below is tentative. Finalized dates will be confirmed and send home in advance of each event. Please be sure to sign up for email notifications and text reminders on the last page of this packet to stay up-to-date with the band program.

- October- Halloween concert- 7th/8th grade only
- Mid -December – Winter Holiday Concert – 6th, 7th, 8th grades (this is first concert for 6th graders)
- January- All-District Auditions- 7th,8th grade only
- March-All-District Band performance (only 7th, 8th graders who were selected)
- March – KMEA Band Festival Assessment (during school hours) EKU CENTER – 6th,7th, 8th grades
- May – End of Year Concert – 6th, 7th, 8th grades
- April/May- End of year trip 7th/8th grade only

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*****Please sign and return this page TO THE BANDROOM.

(Student Name)

(Grade)

(Parent Name)

(Cell Phone)

(Parent Email Address)

(Home Phone or Other Cell)

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BAND EMAIL LIST

Provide any and all emails you would like added to the band mass email list. Emails are only sent as needed and to help remind parents and students of upcoming band events. Please list the email(s) you would like added below. Print VERY neatly to ensure you are properly added. Students are welcome to list their email below as well.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

If you would like to be reminded of upcoming events or updates via texting, please see the attached sheet for directions on how to join a FREE group that allows me to send you updates. I encourage all parents and students to join!