



**CLARENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
BAND HANDBOOK  
2023-2024**



Welcome to the 2023-2024 Clarence Middle School Bands. The Clarence Bands have enjoyed a “tradition of excellence” dating back to the 1960’s. This handbook has been compiled to assist you in maintaining the high standards set over the past six decades and to help you gain the best possible experience from your participation in band.

The due date to acknowledge the Google Form sent to your parents is Friday, September 15.

Communication is very important to us! Please feel welcome to reach out to your son or daughter’s lesson or band teacher at any time. We are the first stop if you need a simple instrument repair, advice in purchasing or renting new equipment, or you are seeking out extra musical learning opportunities. Our experienced staff will be able to answer most questions or seek out someone knowledgeable than can help.

We are looking forward to working with you, and with your help, hope to make this an excellent and rewarding year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Andrew Bodemer ([abodemer@clarenceschools.org](mailto:abodemer@clarenceschools.org))

Mrs. Chryste Mallory ([cmallory@clarenceschools.org](mailto:cmallory@clarenceschools.org))

Mr. Thomas Stroth ([tstroth@clarenceschools.org](mailto:tstroth@clarenceschools.org))

We use Schoology in our classroom! Updates, documents, and media are posted throughout the year for student use. Examples include lesson schedules and changes, reference recordings of our music, and helpful reminders for rehearsals and concerts.

## **LESSONS**

1. Instrumental lessons are given once a week on a rotating basis.
2. Students will be grouped according to like instruments, where applicable.
3. Lesson attendance is mandatory. Students are responsible for informing their classroom teachers about missing classes for lessons. Students are responsible for making up all missed class work. Excuses for missing lessons are absences from school or a test or a science lab, which take place during a particular lesson time. Failure to attend a lesson or to inform your lesson teacher will result in a grade of "0" for the lesson.
4. If you must miss a lesson due to a test or a science lab, you are to inform your lesson teacher in advance. If this is not possible, please inform your lesson teacher immediately following the missed lesson. We will try to schedule a make-up lesson. It is your responsibility to see to it that your lesson teacher is informed of a lesson conflict.
5. Students are to be on time and fully prepared for lessons. This includes having an instrument (with mouthpiece, reeds, etc.), lesson book, other assigned materials, band music, and a pencil.
6. Students are expected to have all assigned lesson materials prepared for each lesson. It is recommended that students practice 30 minutes a day.

## **REHEARSALS**

1. Rehearsal attendance is mandatory. All students are expected to arrive to rehearsal on time. Students should be in their assigned seat and ready to play at the sound of the late bell.
2. Students are expected to come to rehearsal prepared. Each student should have an instrument, mouthpiece, reeds, mutes, valve oil, mallets, sticks, music, and a pencil.
3. There is to be no eating, drinking, or gum chewing in the Band Room.
4. Each student will be assigned his or her own set of music parts. You are responsible for taking care of them and having the correct music at every rehearsal. Do not depend on someone else in your section for music. Please take good care of your music. It is expensive and difficult to replace.
5. Music must be kept in a folder. Do not just "stuff" your music in your case.
6. No one will play another student's instrument. This also includes the percussion equipment.
7. Show care and respect for yourselves, your peers, your teacher, the instruments, and the rehearsal facilities.

## **PERFORMANCES**

1. Because a band is a performing organization, it is presumed that one of its goals is to perform. If we are to gain the highest quality performance and the best experience for each student, it is extremely important that there is 100% attendance for all performances. A missed concert is impossible to make up; therefore, it is imperative that all students attend scheduled performances.
2. Students are expected to wear proper concert dress for all performances. Students are to provide the following:

- White Dress Blouse, Black Skirt/Slacks, Black Shoes, Stockings

or

- White Dress Shirt, Black Dress Pants, Dark Tie, Black Socks, Black Shoes

Please, no sneakers.

## **PRACTICE**

1. Regular and consistent practice is extremely important to a student's musical development. Therefore, it is recommended that each student practice a minimum of 30 minutes a day.
2. Students should have a quiet and private area in which to practice. There should be a sturdy chair with a straight back and a music stand. Be sure your practice area has adequate lighting.
3. Try to set aside a regular time for practice. Be sure this is a time that is free from interruptions and distractions.
4. In order to improve the quality of your playing and your experience in band, it is important to practice music assigned during lessons and music being rehearsed in band. It is okay to play some music "just for the fun of it", but you should wait until after you have practiced your assigned material.
5. All instruments should be taken home every day and must be taken home for practice every weekend.
6. All instrument cases are to be labeled with the student's name clearly visible. This will avoid confusion of ownership of like instruments and will also help in locating lost or misplaced instruments.

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

A good way to augment in-school instrumental musical instruction is to work with a private instructor that specializes on the student's specific instrument. Our list of [Private Lesson Instructors](#) is updated periodically. Please contact the student's school lesson teacher for the most current recommendation.

## **GRADING POLICY**

1. *Lessons* - Each lesson will be worth 100 points. Students will automatically receive 50 points for arriving on time with their instrument, lesson book, other assigned materials, band music, and a pencil. The other 50 points will be awarded on the extent of the student's preparation of assigned materials and their progress during the lesson. Students who fail to attend a lesson without a legal excuse or communicate with their lesson teacher (absence from school or class test); will receive a grade of "0" for that lesson. Lesson grades will comprise 50% of the student's final grade.
2. *Rehearsals* – A student's grade for rehearsals will be based on attendance, promptness, preparation, attitude, effort, and participation of music for each rehearsal. If the above criteria are met satisfactorily, the student will receive full credit for the rehearsal. Rehearsal grades will comprise 50% of the student's final grade.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FACULTY**

Mr. Andrew Bodemer – CMS Symphonic Band Director; CMS Jazz Ensemble Director; CMS Brass Lessons; Harris Hill Brass Lessons; CHS Marching Band Director

Mrs. Chryste Mallory – CMS Concert Band Director; CMS Marching Band Director; CMS Woodwind Lessons; Harris Hill Woodwind Lessons

Mr. Thomas Stroth – CMS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Director; CMS Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion Lessons; Clarence Center Woodwind and Percussion Lessons

## 2023-24 CMS BANDS PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

**Grades 7 & 8**

**November 1**

**All Students**

**December 6**

**7:00 PM**

**Fall Concert**

6<sup>th</sup>, Concert, Symphonic, and Jazz Bands  
Clarence Middle School Auditorium

**April 13**

**7:00 PM**

**District Jazz Festival**

CMS and CHS Jazz Ensembles  
Clarence High School Auditorium

**April 18**

**7:00 PM**

**Spring Concert**

6<sup>th</sup>, Concert, and Symphonic Bands  
Clarence Middle School Auditorium

**May 29**

**11:00 AM**

**Memorial Day Parade**

Main St. to Clarence Town Park

**June 6**

**7:00 PM**

**District Band Spectrum Concert**

6<sup>th</sup>, Concert, and Symphonic Bands  
Clarence High School Gym

**Spring TBA**

**Elementary Concert Assemblies**

Concert and Symphonic Bands

**Optional**

**November 4-5**

**NYSSMA Junior High Area All-State**

Akron High School

**January 7**

**ECMEA Elementary (4-6) and Jazz Auditions**

Depew High School

**January 14**

**ECMEA Junior High (7-9) Auditions**

Orchard Park High School

**March 3-4**

**NYSBDA Statewide Middle School Honor Band**

Syracuse, NY

**March 4, 15, 17, 18**

**ECMEA Elementary Rehearsals and Concert**

Franklin Middle School and Kleinhans Music Hall

**March 10-11**

**ECMEA Junior High North Music Festival**

Franklin Middle School

**March 17-18**

**ECMEA Jazz Festival**

Cheektowaga High School

**May 12-13**

**NYSSMA Solo Evaluation Festival**

Salamanca High School