

2023-2024

Thomas R. Fowler Middle School

Band Handbook

-Table of Contents-

Welcome to Band!	2
Rehearsal Expectations	2
Concert Expectations	2
Grading Procedure	3
Grading Policy	3
Extra Credit.....	4
Talented and Gifted Students.....	4
What You Will Need for Band	4
Mr. V's Picks for Accessories	5
Books and Pencils	7
Private Instruction!.....	7
SmartMusic	7
Concert Attire.....	7
School Instruments and Equipment	8
Other Stuff	8
Contacting Mr. VanDyke.....	9
Calendar of Events.....	10
Expectation Acknowledgement Form.....	11

Welcome to the Fowler Band!

The Fowler Band Program has several goals and objectives throughout the year. Our priority is to provide our students with quality educational experiences. Though we strive at times to excel in competition, our focus is on setting new standards in education, creativity, musicianship, and artistry, through superior practice and performance. Through hard work and dedication, we will continue to achieve success.

Upon completion of the Fowler Middle School Band Program, students will be able to demonstrate competencies in the nine National Standards for Music Education at a basic level, and they will be prepared for successful participation in a high school band program. Along the way, students will have the opportunity to perform in many diverse venues, play high-quality literature, gain exposure to other stellar performing ensembles, and learn about music history and theory, and how it relates to other disciplines. Lastly, students will learn about how these pursuits are valuable and, above all, fun!

Expectations of Band Members

Rehearsal Expectations

- Be on time!
 - Be in class before the bell rings and in your seat ready to play by two minutes after.
- Be prepared!
 - Maintain your instrument in good working order.
 - Bring your own copy of all music.
 - Have all required materials for your class and instrument.
 - Have a sharpened pencil on your stand during every rehearsal.
- Be responsible!
 - Store your instrument in the appropriate instrument storage space when not in rehearsal.
 - Pick up after yourself.
 - Take responsibility for your actions.
- Be respectful at all times!
 - Encourage your classmates and maintain a positive attitude.
 - Don't be a distraction during rehearsal.
 - Don't talk during rehearsal unless you are contributing.
- Be safe!
 - Use appropriate language.
 - Don't act in an unsafe or dangerous way.
 - Maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times.
- Don't bring food, gum, drinks, or study materials for other classes to rehearsal.
- Don't bring cell phones, iPads, or other electronic devices to class. If Mr. V sees or hears an electronic device in class, he will turn it in to the Main Office, in accordance with school policy. Tuners and metronomes only are allowed.

Concert Expectations

- Be ready to play at the call time. You will be considered tardy if this is not the case.
- Take pride in our appearance. (Adhere to the uniform policy, be in full uniform the entire performance, take care of your uniform and instrument, etc.)
- Make sure that you have all necessary supplies, music, and mutes before the call time.
- Be respectful of the other performers by demonstrating proper concert etiquette while they play.
- Stay for the entire concert!



- Help strike the set after the concert unless other plans have been made.

Grading Procedure and Policy

Students in band at Fowler Middle School earn their grade by participating in a variety of activities both in and out of class. Students will have the opportunity to earn points in each of several areas.

Grading Procedure

Each category of the grade will be explained in the grading policy section below. Points are generally totaled and weighted as follows:

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. Concerts and Other Performances | ≈30% |
| 2. Rehearsal Etiquette / Effort / Attitude | ≈25% |
| 3. Tests (written and playing) and Written Work | ≈25% |
| 4. Practice Reports | ≈20% |

Grading Policy

1. Concerts and Other Performances:

- Performances are part of the band class experience and therefore attendance at all performances is mandatory. The number of performances will vary from quarter to quarter, but they will always be required.
- We will go to great lengths to inform you of upcoming performances, and have included a tentative list of performances at the end of this handbook so you can mark your family calendar.
- **It is the student's responsibility to plan ahead.** If you know you will have to miss a performance for some reason, please notify Mr. VanDyke in writing at least three weeks prior to that performance. If an emergency happens and you have to miss a performance, record a voice mail message in the Fowler Music Office at **503-431-5074** as soon as possible. The day after the performance is too late to save your grade.
- All performances are culminating events in music classes, and serve as a means to assess much of what we work on in class. Since there is no reasonable substitute for this experience, **missed performances may not be made up.**

2. Rehearsal Etiquette / Effort / Attitude:

- While this area may seem self-explanatory, it is probably the most important aspect of all. Each band member is responsible for adhering to the rehearsal standards explained earlier. You will earn four points per day toward your grade by following expectations. Some ways to fail to earn full credit in this area include, but are not limited to: being unprepared for class, forgetting your instrument or music, tardiness or leaving rehearsal early, failing to follow directions, being disruptive during rehearsal, or showing disrespect.

3. Tests and Written Work:

- Playing tests will be administered over technical exercises and/or excerpts from our method book or concert literature. Playing may be in the form of either in-class tests or recorded tests. Students will submit all recorded playing assignments via SmartMusic. *(See page 7 for more information regarding SmartMusic.)*



- Written work may include music theory, rhythm studies, listening activities, performance self-evaluations, and any work assigned while a substitute teacher is present.

4. Practice Reports

- Students will earn weekly points by keeping a log of the time they practice their band instrument on a practice report and submitting it the first day of each week. A great deal of what students learn in band must be reinforced and practiced outside of class time. Our expectation is for students to practice at least 5 nights per week for at least 25 minutes each night.

5. Extra Credit:

- Extra credit may be earned by taking private lessons, participating in the District 14 Solo & Ensemble Contest, performing in ensembles outside of school, or attending approved concerts. If you are unsure of whether a concert will be worth extra credit, check with Mr. VanDyke first. No more than 10% of extra credit may be earned per quarter.

Talented and Gifted Students

To ensure that students designated as "Talented and Gifted" (TAG) receive academic instruction that is appropriate to their rate and level of learning, the curriculum and instruction of all band courses at Fowler Middle School may be differentiated to include specialized groupings, compacting of curriculum, accelerated pacing, and providing of extension/challenge activities.

What You Will Need for Band

Band is a unique class that requires special equipment and supplies in order to ensure success. Whether you are using your own instrument or renting, it should always be in GOOD playing condition. The following is a list of accessories you will need to have during each rehearsal, *even if you are using a school owned instrument*. Please remember that a **pencil** will be required of each of you!

INSTRUMENT	ACCESSORIES
FLUTE	cleaning rod, swab, cleaning cloth
OBOE	2-3 cane reeds (or 2 Légère) & holder, swab, cork grease, water container
BASSOON	2-3 cane reeds (or 2 Légère) & holder, swab, cork grease, water container, seat strap
CLARINET	3-4 good cane reeds (or 2 Légère), reed holder, swab, cork grease, neck strap (optional)
SAXOPHONE	3-4 good cane reeds (or 2 Légère), reed holder, swab, cork grease, neck strap
HORN	valve oil, tuning slide grease, cleaning cloth, snake, mute*
TRUMPET	valve oil, tuning slide grease, cleaning cloth, snake, mutes*
TROMBONE	slide cream & water bottle, tuning slide grease, cleaning cloth, snake, mutes*
EUPHONIUM	valve oil, tuning slide grease, cleaning cloth, snake, small pillow (optional)
TUBA	valve oil, tuning slide grease, cleaning cloth
PERCUSSION	sticks & mallets (see below), stick bag
ALL	pencil, folding music stand (strongly recommended!)

PERCUSSION ACCESSORIES:

Required of all percussionists:

- Snare Drum: Vic Firth American Custom SD1 General (2 pair)
- Mallets: Mike Balter #92B bell mallets
Mike Balter #6B xylophone mallets
- Stick Bag

Additionally required for Intermediate Band:

- Mallets: Mike Balter #13B marimba mallets



Timpani: Vic Firth T1 general timpani mallets
Pitch Pipe

Additionally required for Advanced Band:

Mallets: Mike Balter #13B marimba mallets (2 pair)
Mike Balter #23B vibraphone/cymbal mallets

Timpani: Vic Firth T1 general timpani mallets
Pitch Pipe

Additionally required for Jazz Band:

Drum Set: Vic Firth American Custom SD4 Combo

Brushes: Regal Tip #583R*

Mallets: Mike Balter #23B or #25B vibraphone/cymbal mallets

Recommended of all percussionists:

Practice Pad

Metronome

**Brushes are required only if you are assigned a part that calls for them.
If your private instructor would like you to use a different brand for sticks or mallets,
you may do so with Mr. VanDyke's approval.*

Mr. V's Picks for Accessories

Some of the items described below are from the "required accessories" list, while others are just recommendations. What I have described below are the accessories and specific models and brands that I have found to help students best succeed.

Woodwinds:

- Reeds: These are probably the most important part of your instrument. Always store them in a reed holder. These holders help the reed to dry flat and straight and be ready for the next use. **Never** leave your reed on the mouthpiece; it will mold! Always have at least 3 reeds (or 2 Légère reeds) you know are in good working condition in your case at all times. (This will probably require that you have at least four reeds in your possession at all times.) There are many different brands of reeds available. Experiment to see what works best for you, but please use only cane reeds or Légère synthetic reeds. For beginning clarinet students, I specifically recommend Légère 2½ (strength) reeds unless your private instructor prefers otherwise. I do not recommend any other brand of synthetic reeds, as most other brands do not create a characteristic tone quality.
- Mouthpieces: As students grow and mature as musicians in school, many will begin to be held back by the quality of their instruments. If buying a wooden clarinet or professional model saxophone is not financially possible for your family, a good first step is to add a professional quality mouthpiece and ligature to your current instrument. All students will greatly benefit from this relatively simple addition. These are strongly recommended for members of Advanced Band. If you are taking private lessons, ALWAYS discuss with your private instructor before purchasing a new mouthpiece.

Clarinet: VanDoren 5RV lyre or B45

Clarinet Ligature: Luyben plastic (black or clear), Leblanc Bonade inverted

Alto Saxophone: Selmer C* (that's C-star), Rousseau New Classic Series

Tenor Saxophone: Selmer C*, Rousseau 5R
 Baritone Saxophone: Selmer C*, Rousseau 4R
 Jazz Saxophone: see Mr. VanDyke
 Sax Ligature: Rovner dark

As well as improving tone and making all aspects of playing easier, these mouthpieces are all made of hard rubber instead of plastic, so they are also much more durable.

Brasses:

- Mouthpiece brush: This is a handy little brush sized to fit through your mouthpiece and help keep it clean. Every brass player should have a mouthpiece brush, and should use it about once a month.
- Mouthpieces: Just as I mentioned in the discussion of mouthpieces for woodwinds, there are also specific models for brasses that will generally help students best succeed. Again, if you are taking private lessons, ALWAYS discuss with your private instructor before purchasing a new mouthpiece.

French Horn: Holton Farkas MDC or Schilke 31
 Trumpet: Bach 3C or Monette B6
 Trombone: Bach 6½ AL or Schilke 50
 Euphonium: Schilke 51D
 Tuba: Conn Helleberg standard or Bach 18

- *Mutes: When your trumpeter or trombonist is in seventh or eighth grade, we may play music that requires the use of a mute. These are placed in the bell and change the sound of the instrument. If they do not already have them, here are my recommendations. (They are the same brands for both trumpet and trombone):

Straight Mute: Jo-Ral or Tom Crown (all metal)
 Cup Mute: Humes & Berg (Stone-Lined) or MuteMeister
 Harmon Mute (trumpet only): Jo-Ral Bubble
 Practice Mute: Bremner sshhmute

Note: Practice mutes are not used in performance, but rather provide a way to practice very softly when necessary.

Percussion:

- Stick Bag: This is a carrying case for sticks, mallets, and accessories. These bags serve to keep sticks from getting lost, and prolong their life by protecting them while not in use. They are commercially available or, if you sew, you could make one that will work great.

All Students:

- Recordings: Any professional recording of a soloist on your instrument is a wonderful accessory to have at home for listening and imitation.
- Chromatic Tuner: I like the Seiko ST909. It is a compact quartz tuner that will accurately pick up any wind instrument. I also like the Korg model DT-1. It is compact, durable, and while still expensive, it is more affordable than most.

Books and Pencils

A PENCIL IS AS IMPORTANT AS YOUR INSTRUMENT! (Okay, almost as important.) All band students need to have a pencil with them at every rehearsal. All band students will also need to purchase a book for use in class. These books are available at local music stores (Tigard Music & Arts, Beacock Music, Wally's Music, or Canby Music, for example) for about \$12.

Beginning Band: "Essential Elements for Band" Book One (for your instrument)

Intermediate Band: "Essential Elements for Band" Book Two

Advanced Band: "Tradition of Excellence" Book Three

Jazz Band: "Essential Elements for Jazz"

Private Instruction!

Although not a requirement for membership in Fowler's instrumental music program, **private lessons on the student's primary instrument are strongly recommended.** It is an expectation that students will seek out private instruction if at all possible. There are many fine instructors in the Portland area. See Mr. VanDyke to obtain a list of private instructors for your instrument.

SmartMusic

SmartMusic (also known as MakeMusic Cloud) is a computer program and iPad app that enhances the home practicing experience for students. This software allows Mr. VanDyke to assign music selections for students to practice and allows students to practice, record, and submit their playing assignments using a computer, chromebook, or iPad. The software also includes useful practice aids like a metronome and a tuner. Best of all, using a microphone, the software can assess when a student has played right notes or wrong notes and provides instant feedback to the student on-screen.

All Fowler Band students will have full access to the SmartMusic on their school iPads, provided by the Tigard-Tualatin School District. Students may also access SmartMusic on their home computer if they wish. More information will be provided in class, but for now, here is some key information you should know:

- When practicing with SmartMusic on an iPad, the use of headphones is recommended.
- When practicing with SmartMusic on a home computer, the use of a SmartMusic instrumental microphone (available from www.makemusic.com) is recommended.

If you haven't already done so, please take the time to visit www.makemusic.com to see videos and read testimonials of what this software can do.

Concert Attire

In an effort to make our uniforms simple, and to help you get as much mileage as possible out of them, all bands at Fowler Middle School use the same basic concert uniform. We hope that providing clothes for band will not be a hardship; however, you will not be allowed to perform if you are not in proper attire. If you need help with any part of the uniform, please talk with Mr. VanDyke and he will help you work something out. Our uniform for all bands at Fowler is as follows:

Option 1:

- Black button-up dress shirt (with long sleeves)

- Long plain black skirt (no shiny buttons or belts, no shorter than 4" from the floor, and no slits)
- Solid black dress shoes (no open toe or high heels and no tennis shoes)

Option 2:

- Black button-up dress shirt (with long sleeves)
- Black slacks (no jeans)
- Black socks
- Solid black dress shoes (no tennis shoes)

School Instruments & Equipment

Fowler Middle School owns a number of instruments for student use. Students must complete a Tigard-Tualatin School District Instrument Loan Agreement Form to use these instruments. It is important to remember that *while the instrument is checked out to a student, the student is responsible for that instrument.* What that means is ***if the instrument is damaged during the year, it is the student's responsibility to pay for repairs.*** All students renting school instruments will be assessed a \$100 rental fee for the school year.

Other Stuff

Students are expected to leave the OTHER MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT within the band room alone, unless otherwise instructed by the director. Examples would be any percussion equipment, sound equipment, or other student or school instruments. Students who choose to tamper with or touch instruments and/or equipment will lose Rehearsal Etiquette points and be subject to the discipline schedule. In short, if it's not yours, don't touch it!

Each student will be held responsible for the MUSIC ISSUED TO THEM. Students will be expected to replace each piece of music he/she should lose or damage at a cost of \$2.00 per piece of music (or more depending on the music). Each student will be expected to return the music in the shape it was received.

NO FOOD, GUM, OR DRINKS ARE ALLOWED IN THE BAND ROOM. EVER.

EACH STUDENT IS EXPECTED TO LABEL his/her instrument(s) inside and out by PRINTING his/her name on masking tape or on a name tag and placing it on and within the instrument case.

PARENTS: Please fill out the following information and keep this in a safe place. Should a police report need to be made, this information is crucial!

Student's Name: _____
 Instrument: _____
 Name Brand: _____
 Serial Number: _____
 2nd Instrument: _____
 2nd Brand: _____
 2nd Serial Number: _____

DO NOT put serial number on the outside of the case!



Contacting Mr. VanDyke

You may need to contact Mr. VanDyke for many reasons:

- An EMERGENCY, SUDDEN ILLNESS, OR UNAVOIDABLE CONFLICT has developed and you need to notify him that you will miss a performance or rehearsal.
- You have questions about the Fowler Band Program.
- You have questions about your progress in class.
- You or your parents need advice about instrument repair, a new instrument, or private lessons.

There are two ways to contact Mr. VanDyke:

1. Call the Fowler Band Office at 503-431-5074.

This is a direct line to the music office and will reach his voice mail during class or while he is out of the office.

2. E-mail him at school at:

bvandyke@ttsd.k12.or.us

REMEMBER: If you must miss a performance because of an emergency, you must notify Mr. VanDyke by PHONE or E-MAIL at your earliest convenience so he can plan accordingly. Notifying Mr. VanDyke after the performance is **too late to save your grade.**



2023-2024 Fowler Middle School Bands

Calendar of Events

(revised 8/24/2023)

Below is a list of our instrumental music performances that have been scheduled thus far. All dates listed are subject to change. Updates will be sent home as soon as possible. Please mark your family calendars with all of the dates in which your student is involved. Thank you!

EVENT	ENSEMBLE(S)	DATE
Homecoming Football Game at THS	Advanced Band only.....	Friday, September 29, 7:00 PM
Winter Band Concert.....	All Bands!.....	Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 PM
Spring Band Concert at Tigard HS.....	Advanced and Intermediate Bands	Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 PM
Elementary Recruiting Trips	Advanced and Intermediate Bands	April TBA
OMEA District 14 Middle School Honor Band	Selected 8 th Graders	TBA
OMEA District 14 Solo & Ensemble Contest.....	Solo Participants	April TBA
Final Band Concert.....	All Bands!.....	Wednesday, June 5, 7:00 PM

An online version of this calendar is available at:

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ttsd.k12.or.us_classrooma335948a%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Los_Angeles

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Fowler either by phone at 503-431-5074, or via e-mail at bvandyke@ttsd.k12.or.us

Brandon VanDyke
 Director of Bands
 Thomas R. Fowler Middle School



Expectation Acknowledgement

After having familiarized yourself with the Band Handbook, please sign, date, and return this form.

*Note: To save in printing costs, this year's Fowler Band Handbook is being shared digitally.
If you would like a printed copy, you may download and print it from the Fowler Band website at:
<https://www.ttsdschools.org/cms/lib/OR02215771/Centricity/Domain/655/FOW%20band%20handbook.pdf>.*

We have read and understand the grading policy for band classes at Fowler Middle School. We understand what supplies and equipment, including concert attire, will be required for band this year. We understand the behavior expectations for band members at Fowler Middle School.

We have found the attached calendar of events for the year and understand the attendance requirements for band members. We understand that performances outside of school are required and are part of the student's band grade. We also understand that dates may change and/or be added throughout the course of the year.

I have read the Band Handbook and understand what Mr. VanDyke expects from me this year. I will do my best to meet or exceed these expectations and encourage others to do the same!

Date: _____

x _____
(Student Signature)

(Student Name Printed)

(Student e-mail)

x _____
(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Parent Name Printed)

(Parent e-mail)

Additional Information:

Are you taking private lessons: Yes No

If yes, please complete the following:

Private Instructor's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Are you performing in any outside groups: Yes No

If yes, which ones? _____

Please sign and take a photo of this form to attach and submit as an assignment on Canvas by Thursday, September 14, 2023. The return of this form will count as a graded assignment in the category of Tests and Written Work.

