

GMMS Band Handbook

2024-2025



Katie Stiles- Band Director

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Classroom Behavior Expectations

-Students get an extra two minutes, in the band room, to be seated with their materials before they are marked tardy. Materials include: instrument, instrument book, 3 ring binder, music, and pencil.

- NO Cell Phones

- Restrooms= school policies apply.

-Only water in class. Food and other drinks can damage instruments.

- Participation is Required

Concert Attendance Policy

Concerts are a Summative Grade therefore it is required. Good communication can prevent any misunderstandings. If your student falls absent on a concert night, please follow the steps below.

1. Written notices, including emails, from **parents** only, are required for all concert or festival absences.
2. Advance notice of at least **two weeks** is required for all prior commitments.
3. In case of illness, family emergency, or religious holidays/beliefs conflict, please notify the director by email (Katie.stiles@d51schools.org). The absence will be excused and an alternative assignment will be provided.
4. An unexcused absence will result in a zero for the grade and will not be allowed to be made up.

****Please note: Once a student commits to an "extra" performance, then attendance no longer becomes optional and the previous attendance policy applies. Extra performances include Honor Bands/Jazz Bands.**

Grading

Academic Grades:

Formative: Checks in class, Smaller playing tests, Small assignments in class. **PRACTICING!**
(100 minutes per week)

Summative: Larger Playing Tests, Concerts, Concert Reflections, and Larger Class Assignments.
Instrument Cleaning, etc. (100%)

4. Student regularly meets or exceeds the standard
3. Student regularly meets the standard
2. Student is beginning to meet the standard
1. Student does not meet the standard but makes an attempt.
0. Does not submit any work

Instrument Rental/ Purchase Options

1.) RENT FROM THE SCHOOL: The fee to rent from the school district is \$100.00. My Payments +, Checks or Cash are accepted. If you pay by check, please make it out to Grand Mesa Middle School. Payment plans will be offered to parents who communicate with the director. The due date for this payment is **Sept. 1st 2023** unless communication has been made. A contract will be provided that needs to be signed and returned to the band director.

Students who do not pay their fee, may get their instrument assigned to another student who is in need. Instruments are limited.

- a.) A reduced fee of \$50.00 will be for students who play a second instrument or are a Percussionist. Percussionists have a reduced fee due to families needing to provide their own sticks/mallets/and bag.

All school district owned instruments will have a District Barcode Tag. This tag must be on the instrument at all times.

****All damage that occurs due to neglect or carelessness (lost or stolen) will be the financial responsibility of the student/parent. Students must keep their Music things in their Music Lockers while at school. Nowhere else please****

a.) Reeds can be purchased through the school while supplies last.

Clarinet \$3.00 for 1 or \$5.00 for 2 reeds, Bass Clarinet \$5.00, Alto Sax \$4.00,
Tenor Sax \$5.00, Bari Sax \$7.00

b.) School Mouthpieces: If mouthpieces are lost/stolen due to a student not keeping things in their music locker they need to be replaced. Roper Music and Grand Valley Music have replacements.

2.) RENT FROM A MUSIC STORES: **Roper Music:** 1224 N 25th St, Grand Junction, CO 81501, (970)-242-3272 provides other options for student rentals. They also have instruments for purchase. This is a good place to buy cleaning supplies and reeds. They are open 9:30am-6pm Monday-Friday, Saturday 9:30am-2pm, Closed on Sundays.

Grand Valley Music: 2486 Patterson Rd, Grand Junction, CO 81505, [\(970\) 822-0747](tel:9708220747). This is another music retailer who provided instrument rentals and supplies.

3.) PURCHASE YOUR OWN: It is **not** recommended to buy your own instrument from **non-music retailers**. If these instruments break and they are not recommended brands, they cannot be fixed by a music store. **Before purchase, please contact the band director.** Instruments that are of a bright nature such as pink and green are not real instruments. They will break, they will not sound good, and will cause you and your student more money and headache in the future.

**** DO NOT Rent/ Purchase Instruments from non-music retailers.**

Care of Music

Each student is expected to have a **3 Ring binder**, with page protectors to keep their music from being destroyed. This binder should be purchased by the parent for the class. Students will keep their binder in their assigned music locker.

Fund Raisers

Fundraisers are very important to the continuing success of our music program. We use fundraiser money to buy new music, equipment, take field trips and even provide scholarships to students who would like to participate in private lessons and music camps. Our Fundraiser is a Rock-A-Thon that will occur in the 1st Quarter.

Concert Dress

Concert attire is **ALL Black**. Please read the following rules:

Shirts- Must be Black. Shirts must not: have any writing or graphics on them, show any midsection, and it must cover their undergarments. (Athletic attire and hoodies will not be permitted.)

Black dress pants are preferred. Black Jeans will be permitted as long as they do not have holes in them. Black leggings will be permitted as long as the student's shirt is long enough to cover the student's bottoms and the leggings are not see through.

Black Skirts or Dresses are allowed; as long as they are of an appropriate school length. Please wear black stockings or leggings if choosing to wear a skirt or dress.

The **darkest pair of shoes** the students own will work with black socks

****If a student arrives at a concert not wearing the designated attire, they will lose concert points towards their grade. If they show up at a Festival (judged performance) not wearing their concert attire, they will not perform with the group.**

Lockers

Students will be assigned a Band Locker to store all of their music class supplies. Please notify the director if you have any concern with this.

Equipment Needed (Purchased by Parent) Required Equipment

Instrument Care Products (See below by inst)	6th and 7th Grade Book: Measures of Success Book 1 (Blue). For your students' instruments.
Pencil	8th Grade Book: Foundations of Superior Performance, for their instrument
3 Ring Binder (1 to 1.5 inches, dark in color if possible)	
Page Protectors	
Clarinets/Saxes need 2-3 working reeds. For students who play these instruments only.	

*An electric tuner and metronome are highly recommended. Free apps for these can be found on all smartphones for practice at home.

Instrument Cleaning Products by Instrument

Woodwinds: Instrument	Materials needed	Approximate Life Expectancy
Flute	Cleaning rod	Life of instrument
	Small patch of cloth	1+ year

Clarinet	Cork grease (1)	1 year
	Swab (1)	2-3 years if washed every year
	Reeds	4 weeks if rotated (need 2-3)
Saxophone	Cork grease (1)	1 year
	Pull through swab (1)	2-3 years if washed every year
	Reeds	4 weeks if rotated (2-3)
	Neck strap	Life of instrument
	Plastic Tenon plug	Life of instrument
Oboe	Swab (1)	2-3 years if washed every year
	Med soft reed	4 weeks if rotated (2-3)
Bassoon	Seat strap	Life of instrument
	Swab (wing joint and boot)	2-3 years if washed every year
	Medium soft Reeds	4 weeks (2-3)

Brass: Instruments

Trumpet	Slide grease	2 years
	Valve oil	1 year
	Cleaning snake	Life of instrument
Horn	Slide grease	2 years
	Rotor oil	1 year
Trombone	Slide grease	2 years
	Slide-O-Mix	1-2 years
	Cleaning snake	Life of instrument
Baritone/Tuba	Slide grease	2 years
	Valve oil	1 year

Mouthpiece brush

Life of instrument

Percussion:

Grade

6th

Rent a Bell Kit (If you can afford it) It includes:

- Practice pad/stand (stand is optional)
- Bell kit/stand
- Plastic mallets
- Drum sticks-Vic Firth SD1 Generals

. If you do not rent a bell kit please have the following for class: **Stick Bag, Plastic Mallets, and Vic Firth SD1 General Drumsticks.**

7th: Medium Hard Yarn mallets: Recommend IP275 or IP300

Timpani mallets: Recommend T1 Vic Firth

(Plus everything from 6th grade: Please keep your things from year to year)

8th: All Equipment from 6th and 7th Grade lists above. (Please keep all material from previous years or you will need to replace them)

Private Lessons

Private lessons, though **not required**, are highly recommended to supplement class instruction. This is for students of any ability. Please contact the band director for approved private lesson teachers and contact info. If you are interested.