

TUMWATER MIDDLE SCHOOL 2023-2024 BAND HANDBOOK



James Harper

Director

james.harper@tumwater.k12.wa.us

360.709.7542

<http://tms.tumwater.k12.wa.us//Domain/1120>

Welcome

This handbook was created to provide you with some information about the TMS band program. When you have finished reviewing the handbook, copy the schedule of events onto the family calendar. Finally, fill out the last page and return it within one week. **Keep the rest of this document; you will need to refer to it throughout the year.**

Please read the entire handbook carefully. It will take you less than fifteen minutes to read it, and can provide you with critical information about the year. This handbook is not intended to be a list of “do”s and “don’t”s, but a clear outline of information and expectations so that you can have a successful and enjoyable experience in band.

Guiding Principles

1. **Excellence In Everything** - In the TMS band program, we believe that every member must strive for excellence in all aspects of class culture, rehearsal technique, and performance standards. To aim for anything less is to sell yourself and the people sitting next to you short.
2. **Help create a safe, supportive, and musically enriching environment** - Good learning cannot take place in a chaotic environment. This is why all members of the TMS band program do their best to establish and maintain an orderly and focused environment so that our ensemble can put forth its best work.
3. **Contribute positively to your ensemble** - TMS band members show up on time and having adequately prepared their music outside of rehearsal time so that we can focus not on learning our parts, but instead what truly matters - **the music**.
4. **Be a good ambassador** - When you are a member of the TMS band program, you not only represent yourself, but also your ensemble, this band program, Tumwater Middle School, and the community of Tumwater. TMS band members represent **all** of those groups in a positive manner.

Performance Expectations

In addition to the classroom expectations listed above, expectations for performances are as follows:

1. **Arrive on time** - Plan ahead to make sure you arrive by the scheduled call time for your group’s performance.
2. **Wear appropriate attire** - In addition to sounding our best, we must also look our best as an ensemble. All band members must be in appropriate performance attire for each performance. Please refer to the “Performance Attire” section of this handbook for more details.
3. **Demonstrate good audience behavior** - Plan on remaining for the entire performance. Members of other ensembles are there to support you in your performance - you will pay them that same courtesy. At TMS, we listen quietly and intently to the performances of our colleagues.
4. **Do your job, don’t leave it to someone else** - Every member of the TMS band has a setup and/or teardown job for every performance. Many hands make light work - leaving your job incomplete for someone else to take care of puts undue burden on them.

Instructional Goals and Objectives

Through participation in the TMS band program, students will work to learn key musical concepts and objectives to meet certain building, district, and state achievement goals. These key concepts include:

Musical Pitch – Learning to hear and play musical pitches accurately, reading notes on all staves, key signatures, sharps, flats, naturals, enharmonic tones, alternate fingerings, scales, understanding the use of proper posture, hand position, embouchure formation, and intonation and tuning in ensemble performance.

Musical Rhythm – Learning to read, write, count, clap, and play musical rhythms in simple and compound meters, reviewing and working with meter signatures, tempos, subdivision, and the basics of keeping accurate time.

Instrumental Technique – Learning about and using proper body alignment, hand position, breath support and breath control, fingerings, alternate fingerings, stickings, shifting, and positions appropriate for skill level; learning and practicing the Circle of Fifths, flexibility exercises, major and minor scales, thirds, arpeggios, and chromatic scales.

Music Theory – Learning and using new musical vocabulary, scale and chord construction, composition styles and forms, and various musical symbols and foreign language terminology.

Musical Interpretation and Appreciation – Learning through study and performance about different musical styles, historical perspectives, musical phrasing, and self expression in music.

Musical Performance – Understanding and practicing appropriate rehearsal techniques, study skills, practicing strategies; Practicing appropriate stage presence and behavior through self-discipline, respect for self and others, and pride in performance; Understanding of group effort and successful concert preparation and performance – i.e. the responsibility of planning ahead, being on time, dressed formally and appropriately, having music well-prepared, focus and concentration both on and off the stage, and the participation in stage crews and public announcing.

Private Lessons

Private instruction makes a profoundly positive impact on the individual student as well as the entire band program. Mr. Harper will assist you if you need help selecting a private instructor. The key to success is starting as soon as possible . . . SO START NOW! See page 7 for a list of private teachers.

Grading

The grading system is outlined below. Grading in the TMS band program is based on your successful completion of assessments, positive contributions to rehearsals, and participation in required performances. If you have questions about your grade at any time, please ask. If you are struggling with something, ask for help. Please don't wait to ask for help until it may be too late to resolve your situation.

40% - Attendance and participation in band performances: This portion of your grade is influenced primarily by your punctuality, proper attire, and positive contributions to the performance.

All performances for your ensemble are mandatory and it is EXTREMELY important that everyone attends – your classmates are counting on you to be there!!! Plan ahead and always double-check that you have everything you need. All performance dates are listed on Page 6 of this handbook.

In the event that someone is sent home early from a performance for disciplinary reasons, the individual(s) concerned will earn a zero (0) score for that event.

Performances can only be excused for serious illness and family emergencies. Lack of transportation or proper attire are not valid excuses for missing a performance - plan ahead! **If you must miss a performance, there must be written notice signed by a parent at least two weeks in advance.** If you fail to provide this notice you will receive an “F” (0%) for that performance. If you provide written notice at least two weeks in advance, your excuse will be considered, and you *may* be excused from that performance. In such cases, there will be alternative assignment options provided for students to recover points from a missed performance.

Emergencies will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In any event, **I must receive a telephone call, voice message, or parent email before the beginning of the performance.**

30% - Playing Assessments/Musical “Check-ins”: Playing assessments or check-ins will be administered every 1-2 weeks as a part of asynchronous instruction. These are primarily used as a tool to gauge student learning and offer help, re-teaching, or extra challenge as necessary. Playing assessments are worth varying amounts of points and will evaluate your playing in areas such as: Tone, Posture, Rhythm, Pulse, Pitch, Articulations, Appropriate Speed. **A score which results in a 2 average or lower will be considered “under standard” and will result in a required retake.** Students may retake as many times as needed to earn a satisfactory grade up to the end of the quarter in which the assessment was assigned. All student playing assessments will be submitted via the Seesaw app. Instructions on the proper use of this learning tool will be covered in the first weeks of school.

30% - Daily Rehearsal/Other Assignments: Students can earn a total of ten (10) points per class period. Four of these points come from students showing up to class prepared with their instrument, music, pencil and other necessary materials and the remaining four points are earned through engaged participation/positive contribution to the ensemble. Points may be deducted from a student’s daily total for coming to class unprepared or lack of appropriate participation. Students will also be required to complete various other written assignments throughout the year, which will be counted towards their total assignment/rehearsal grade.

I strive to offer students and families the most accurate picture I can of their progress in band. As such, there may be adjustments to this grading based on current best practices as TSD moves toward a standards-based grading model. I will update students and families of any updates to these policies via Skyward message and email.

Jazz Band/TMSSO

7th and 8th Grade students will have an opportunity to audition for and participate in Jazz Band and TMS Symphony Orchestra. Involvement in either or both of these ensembles includes extra rehearsals and performances outside of normal class time and therefore a greater expectation of commitment and practice. Details on how to participate in these groups will be covered in the first weeks of school.

Music

The band program will provide sheet music for students to play throughout the year. You are responsible for keeping track of and caring for your music. All students will be issued a music folder - you must store your music in this to keep it in good condition! Students in Concert and Beginning Bands need a copy of "Sound Innovations, Book 1", Symphonic Band needs a copy of "Sound Innovations, Book 2" and those in Wind Ensemble will also need "Sound Innovations, Ensemble Development" in addition to supplementary materials that will be distributed during class time. Concert Band may advance to the next level method book within the year, so it would be wise to purchase the next level method book as well as the one for your class. You may purchase these at any local music store or online. **It is your responsibility to bring it to class each day, and replace it if it becomes damaged beyond usability.**

Performance Attire

Each student is responsible for being in the proper attire for each performance. You are a representative of our school and our community every time you appear in public. Make sure your appearance and behavior reflect that responsibility.

TMS performance attire for all students is black long-sleeve button down dress shirt/blouse, black dress slacks, and black shoes/socks. Any alterations to this uniform will be discussed in the first weeks of school. **You must be wearing the proper attire to perform and receive credit.** If purchasing concert attire presents a financial hardship, please see Mr. Harper privately during the first month of school.

Use of School Instruments

Some members of the band will need to rent school instruments because these instruments are not available to rent from music stores or because they are prohibitively expensive. The cost of using a school instrument is \$20 per semester (\$40 per year). This fee will help to offset the cost of repairs for equipment. A rental contract must also be filled out. Percussion students should reference the [TMS Percussion Student Equipment List](#) for required materials.

The school does not provide oil, grease, swabs, or other supplies necessary for the maintenance of the instruments. These can be purchased at any music store. Those students utilizing multiple school instruments will only be assessed the \$20 fee once per semester.

Lockers

Lockers appropriate to your instrument's size will be provided. However, you must provide your own combination lock (no key locks). You will need to provide Mr. Harper with your lock combo and locker number **within the first full week of school**. Make sure that your instrument and music are properly stored **and locked** before you leave class. Please note that TMS is not responsible for anything left in these lockers, and they should never be used to store other valuable items. Returning students will be assigned the same locker unless they request a different one. Lockers in the band room are not private and can be opened at any time to search for music, instruments, or anything else.

Email Me / Ask Questions

Please feel free to ask questions. I am here to help you, and want to get to know each of you. Feel free to stop by after school and chat. Please call me or send me an e-mail if any of the above information is unclear. My school phone number is **709-7542** (or call the front desk and ask for the band room). My e-mail is james.harper@tumwater.k12.wa.us. Email is the best form of communication for me.

The last page should be removed from the handbook.

2023 – 2024 TMS Bands Performance Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Ensemble
October 6 th	BHHS Home Football Pep Band	TSD Stadium	WE
October 26 th	TMS Fall Band Concert	TMS	All Bands
November 9 th	Veterans' Day Assembly	TMS	WE
December 6 th	BHHS Band Concert	BHHS	WE
February 6 th	CMEA Jazz Festival	BHHS	JZ
February 13 th	City of Tumwater Music Fest	WCPA	SB / WE
February 18 th	WMEA Junior All-State Band***	Yakima, WA	N/A
February 29 th	5-12 Northend Band Concert	BHHS	All Bands
March 23 rd	MS Instrumental Solo & Ensemble	TMS	SB / WE
March 26 th	TMS Arts Gala	TMS	SB / WE
April 12 th	Swing Dance	Oly HS	JZ
April 25 th or 26 th	MS Large Group Band Festival	SPSCC	SB / WE
May 17 th	Seattle Symphony Field Trip	Seattle, WA	SB / WE
June 5 th	TMS Spring Band Concert	TMS	All Bands

Abbreviations:

WE = Wind Ensemble (8th Grade)

SB = Symphonic Band (7th Grade)

JZ = Jazz Band

Please note the location for each performance and check to make sure your ensemble is performing. Concert start times are 7:00 PM unless otherwise specified.

If other performances are added, I will give as much advance notice as possible. Please understand that the dates listed above should be **immediately** placed on your family calendar.

***This event is only for students who audition for and are accepted into the Jr. All State Concert or Jazz Band

Private Teachers in the Olympia/Tacoma Area

This list represents the teachers that I am aware of in our area right now. I want to keep this list current, so please let me know of additional teachers. If you find that the telephone numbers listed no longer work, please notify me so I can remove them. I've added hyperlinks to email/website for all teachers that I have that information for. This list is not an endorsement of any particular teacher over another; it is simply some information to get you started. Local music stores may be able to help you find additional names and numbers.

Flute	Mary Jensen*	206-384-5634	Erin Happenny	253-632-7413
	Laura Dickinson	360-459-7919		
	Ninee Petchprapa Wolff	360-584-3251		
Oboe	Laura Harper*	206-406-0822		
	Karen Beretz	360-943-9592		
	Karen Gheorgiu	360-754-1225		
Bassoon	Lantz Beretz	360-943-9592		
	Anna Garrett	360-754-4861		
	Cheryl Phillips*	253-988-4179		
Clarinet	Ashley Cook*	360-338-1155	Lyndi Knox	253-569-8034
	Tracy Knoop	253-314-2966		
	Aaron Wolff	360-878-0764		
Saxophone	Aaron Wolff	360-878-0764	Kareem Kandi	253-307-4057
	Brad Schrandt	360-259-8331		
	Tracy Knoop	253-627-7355		
Trumpet	Greg Allison	360-352-1438	Keith Holder	360-753-5747 360-280-7716
	Ben McDonald	360-956-0411	Jerry Huff	
	John Wells*	253-414-4447		
Horn	Emma Grice	360-486-4543		
	Liz Ward	253-845-6044		
	Anna Barbee*	602-317-5716		
Low Brass	Ryan Wagner*	253-640-2141	Dan Craig	
	Richard Lopez	360-956-1655		
	Tiffany Anderson	360-412-8079		
Percussion	Dan Adams	206-545-3770		
	Maria Joyner	360-402-0089		
	Keith Mitchell	360-956-2995		

*Olympia Symphony Orchestra musician

Local Music Stores

Music 6000

3738 Pacific Ave. S.E.
Olympia, WA 98501
(360)786-6000

Ted Brown Music

6228 Tacoma Mall Blvd.
Tacoma, WA 98409
(800) 562-8938

Music & Arts - Lacey

4017 8th Ave SE
Lacey, WA 98503
(360) 456-4200

Music Websites

The following are online resources for purchasing sheet music, method books, instruments, instrument accessories, and other supplies you will need, as well as resources for learning music theory, etc. These and more can also be found under the “links” section of the band website.

www.jwpepper.com – Sheet music supply store

www.wwbw.com – Woodwind & Brasswind, wind instruments and accessories

www.musicarts.com – Music & Arts, wind/percussion instruments and accessories

www.steveweissmusic.com – Percussion instruments, sticks/mallets and other accessories

www.musictheory.net - Online music theory lessons and exercises

www.metronomeonline.com - Web-based metronome

www.alexdemartos.es/wtuner - Web-based tuner (requires microphone)

wfg.woodwind.org - Online finger/trill charts for all woodwind instruments

Also check out these apps: Tempo, Cleartune, Tonal Energy, Tunable, insTuner Free, iReal Pro

Return This Page

I have read the preceding material carefully, and understand the policies of the Tumwater Middle School Band. ***We have noted the performance dates on the family calendar.***

(student printed name)

(student signature)

I have also read the band handbook, and understand that my student will be held accountable for the information that it contains. I also release the school to seek emergency medical attention for my student in the event of an accident or other medical emergency while under the supervision of school staff. I understand that I am responsible for any costs of medical attention unless I have a school issued insurance policy.

(parent/guardian printed name)

(parent/guardian signature)

