



**CLARENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
BAND HANDBOOK  
2024-2025**



Welcome to the 2024-2025 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 and a half decades and to help you gain the best possible experience from your participation in band.

Complete the following Google Form as acknowledgement that you have read the Handbook. [CMS Band Handbook Sign-Off](#) The due date is Friday, September 20.

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

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Director; Brass, Percussion, and Woodwind Lessons

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

Concert Band Director; Marching Band Director; Woodwind Lessons

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

Symphonic Band Director; Jazz Ensemble Director; Brass Lessons

<p>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.</p>
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## 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.

## **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.

## **INSTRUMENT CASES**

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, science lab, or class test); will receive a grade of "0" for that lesson. Lesson grades will comprise 35% of the student's final grade.
2. *Rehearsals* – A student's grade for rehearsals will be based on attendance, promptness, preparation, attitude, effort, and playing participation for each rehearsal. If the above criteria are met satisfactorily, the student will receive full credit for the rehearsal. Rehearsal grades will comprise 40% of the student's final grade.
3. *Assessments* - A scale test and band music check will be given each marking period. Additional assessments will be given if needed. Assessments will comprise 25% of the student's final grade.

## **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, Stockingsor
  - 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. The long-standing ideal for student practice is 30+ minutes per day. A great practice routine will yield the strongest results.
2. It is understood that an ideal home practice routine can be an unrealistic expectation with today's busy family schedules. Students may sign up to use practice rooms before and after school, as well as during lunches and study halls. This option is available, and strongly encouraged, for students to take advantage of practice opportunities while at school.
3. At home, 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. Try to set aside a regular time for practice. Be sure this is a time that is free from interruptions and distractions.
4. Practice exercises, scales, and 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.

## **SCHOOL PRACTICE INCENTIVE**

Our goals are for our students to practice more often, more effectively, and more easily. We are offering a school practicing incentive this year.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Band Room for students to reserve a space for a specific time to practice at school. The student should ask for verification from a band teacher after the practice session and then will be offered a treat from the practice incentive jar.

After completing 8 or more practice sessions by the end of the marking period, students will be eligible to participate in a special gathering to celebrate their efforts and accomplishments.

It is hoped that this additional practice opportunity will help students achieve our collective goals.

## 2024-2025 CMS BANDS PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

### All Students

**November 21**                      **7:00 PM**                      **Fall Concert**  
6<sup>th</sup>, Concert, Symphonic, and Jazz Bands  
Clarence Middle School Auditorium

**April 1**                              **7:00 PM**                      **Spring Concert**  
6<sup>th</sup>, Concert, and Symphonic Bands  
Clarence Middle School Auditorium

**May 22**                              **7:00 PM**                      **District Jazz Festival**  
CMS and CHS Jazz Ensembles  
Shea's 710 Main Theatre

**May 26**                              **11:00 AM**                      **Memorial Day Parade**  
Main St. to Clarence Town Park

**June 10**                              **7:00 PM**                      **District Band Spectrum Concert**  
6<sup>th</sup>, Concert, and Symphonic Bands  
Clarence High School Gym

**Spring TBD**                              **Elementary Concert Assemblies**  
Concert and Symphonic Bands

### Optional

**November 1-2**                              **NYSSMA Junior High Area All-State**  
Akron High School

**January 11**                              **ECMEA Elementary (4-6) and Jazz Auditions**  
Depew High School

**January 18**                              **ECMEA Junior High (7-9) Auditions**  
Orchard Park High School

**February 28-March 1**                      **NYSBDA Statewide Middle School Honor Band**  
Syracuse, NY

**March 1, 12, 14, 15**                      **ECMEA Elementary Rehearsals and Concert**  
Sweet Home Middle School and Kleinhans Music Hall

**March 7-8**                              **ECMEA Junior High North Music Festival**  
Grand Island High School

**March 14-15**                              **ECMEA Jazz Festival**  
Cheektowaga High School

**May 9**                                      **NYSSMA Solo Evaluation Festival**  
Salamanca High School