



Striving for Excellence

Albert Cammon —
Middle School

Albert Cammon Middle School Band Handbook 2024 - 2025

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Albert Cammon Middle School band program. I welcome each of you and look forward to a great year. I am very pleased to be teaching at ACM at the heels of another very successful school year. I look forward to meeting all of you and working closely with you and your children.

This handbook is designed so you will be well informed of the rules, regulations, and policies of this organization. Every successful organization has a code or set of standards that it follows which ensures its success. The ACM band is no exception. Each item in this handbook has been carefully developed to serve the organization to its utmost in that area.

Our band motto is “Pirate Pride.” We have been commended everywhere we go on how wonderful our students are. We have a unique spirit and pride that cannot be imitated. By modeling the characteristics of pride, we will only guarantee that this continues. With the proper execution of all the expectations, we will certainly have an organization which will serve as a model for other bands, and we will have an organization of which we will all be proud.

Yours in music,

Stephen Tumblin
Director of Bands
Albert Cammon Middle School

[Handbook Agreement Form](#)

Albert Cammon Middle School Band

Band Philosophy

Music education is an essential part of a well-rounded middle school student's experience. It helps to create a respect for one's self, others, equipment, time, and effort. Music transcends societal barriers and allows otherwise diverse groups of students to experience success as part of an organization while pursuing individual goals and aspirations. The band program at ACM provides a quality outlet for students with musical talent and ability, reflects the goals of the parish and state music departments, and serves to entertain and elevate both the school and community through public performances. As teachers, we will set our students up for success through careful planning, continuing education, and serving as positive role models for all of our band members.

Purpose/Objectives of the ACM Band

1. Support the school and community at athletic events and public performances.
2. Project a positive image for the school and music department at ACM.
3. Promote healthy relationships between other musicians, bands, schools, and students.
4. Inspire students to experience the joy and enthusiasm of music and performance.
5. Strive for excellence in all of our ensembles.
6. Perform at the highest possible level at all times and allow each individual to experience success and achievement.

VISION

- To provide opportunities for participation in a wide variety of activities during every sport and competition season.
- To be an integral, well-coordinated part of the middle school curriculum.
- To assist participants in the development of athletic and leadership skills.
- To develop effective time management strategies.
- To develop socially through cooperation, competition, and appropriate standards of behavior.

MISSION

- Promote and uphold school spirit, unity, and pride.
- Represent the school to the highest degree.
- Set an example of good behavior and sportsmanship at all times (whether in uniform or not).
- Promote friendship with each other and with schools with whom we compete and perform
- Promote the development of lifelong values and skills.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT/ WEEKLY PRACTICE

The role of the parent in any task the student will undertake is of extreme importance. It is imperative for the parent to see that the student practices a minimum of 60 minutes every week. With the help of the parent, the student will have a much greater chance of success in his or her musical studies. This is definitely not to imply that music should override the other studies, but it should not be underestimated or its importance diminished. Of course private lessons are always a wonderful idea and may be counted toward weekly practice time. If interested, check local music stores, band directors, or accomplished college or high school musicians.

The Albert Cammon Middle School band is constantly growing and so is the need for parent volunteers. Throughout the school year parents are needed to chaperone many events such as sports games, concerts, festivals, field trips, etc. ***Without the support of the parents we would not be successful.***

BANDS/ENSEMBLES

Pep Band/Drumline

Pep Band/Drumline will begin immediately. This ensemble will perform for the three home football games and pep rallies. Drumline will consist of 7th and 8th grade percussionists, 7th and 8th grade band members who audition and make the drumline, and any 6th grader with drumline experience. These members cannot be involved in cheerleading, dance team, or football, as the performances overlap. Students will be required to attend all rehearsals and all football games in which we are participating. The home game dates are 9/14, 9/21, and 9/28.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is our most advanced performing ensemble. It is our competing performance band. The symphonic band will meet in October and will be selected by an audition process. Students wishing to be selected for symphonic band must have discipline and be highly motivated. These students will be expected to go above and beyond classroom duties. Auditions will be held at the beginning of October. Students must have shown their willingness to cooperate and attendance of rehearsals and performances to be considered for a spot in symphonic band.

Concert Band

Concert Band is a performing group made up of beginner and intermediate level musicians. This ensemble will be all band students not eligible to participate in Symphonic Band. All Concert Band students will be required to come to ALL concert band rehearsals and participate in BOTH concerts.

Bucket Beats

This group is open to all ACM students. An audition is required. This group is a “trash percussion” ensemble that focuses on captivating the audience both visually and aurally. Rehearsal attendance is mandatory.

P-Funk

This group is open to all ACM students. An audition is required. We will be playing music by artists such as Bruno Mars, Justin Timberlake, Stevie Wonder, Otis Redding, Aretha Franklin, and more! The group will consist of singers, guitar, bass, keys, sax, trumpet, trombone, drums and percussion. Singers and drums are not required to read music, all others must have some reading skills. Rehearsal attendance is mandatory.

ATTENDANCE

All students are required to attend all rehearsals and all performances. One of the primary purposes of the band is to prepare for and participate in public performances. This is an integral part of band membership and comprises a major part of the grade. A calendar is provided at the beginning of each month so that there is adequate time to plan schedules and resolve conflicts. All performances are mandatory. If a student is enrolled in the band class, he/she will be required to perform at both the Winter Concert and Spring Concert. These performances will be for a summative grade, as the performances are a summary of what they have learned in class.

*****The Band and Choir Winter Concert will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Destrehan High Auditorium.***

*****The Band and Choir Spring Concert will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 6:00 pm in the Destrehan High Auditorium.***

Students who have instruments in the shop or have forgotten them are still required to attend all classes, rehearsals, and performances.

Excused Absences: Only the following will be acceptable excuses for absences: (1) Personal illness, (2) A death in the family, (3) A religious holiday, and (4) Serious extenuating circumstances approved by the director. Occasionally there may be conflicting school-sponsored activities. In this event, contact the sponsors involved so we may help you. Discuss the conflict beforehand, not afterward. Any conflict, personal or school, will not be excused unless discussed with the director **before** the rehearsal.

CONCERT DRESS

For all concerts and festival performances students will wear **Dress Black**. This includes:

Boys: Black Pants, Black Shirt, Black Socks, Black **DRESS** shoes. A Tie will be provided for you.

Girls: Black dress, Black shoes

*******For all performances sports related the uniform is khaki pants and blue band shirt.

REHEARSALS AFTER SCHOOL

In the days preceding concerts and other important performances, it will be necessary to have several after school rehearsals. Students and parents will have advanced notice of these rehearsals so that full attendance can be expected. A calendar will be sent home monthly, and will also be posted on the band's website. As band is a co-curricular activity these rehearsals are **mandatory** and will be counted as part of the student's **summative grade**. Rehearsals will *usually* be on Tuesdays or Thursdays, and will last from 3:00-4:45. There will be an activity bus to take students home from rehearsals.

BAND FEES

Every student enrolled in band will be assessed a \$30.00 course fee. This fee pays for their method books, music, and other supplies needed throughout the year. Each student will be given an opportunity to purchase an Albert Cammon Band shirt for \$10.00. This shirt will be worn throughout the year to pep rallies, performances, field trips, etc. and will be good for the three years they are at Cammon.

Instrument Rental

If a student does not own an instrument, the band has a limited amount available for rental. The rental fee is \$45.00 and instruments will be issued on a first come-first serve basis. In order to guarantee your student has an instrument, please send in rental fees as early as possible.

Percussionists

All percussionists will be assessed a \$45.00 equipment fee. This fee will include the use of all percussion equipment, along with their own set of drumsticks and a drum pad to keep.

Reeds

Students playing reed instruments will be given four reeds at the beginning of each semester. I am requiring that all reed players have four good reeds in their reed clip and case at all times. They will have access to purchase extra reeds through the school at a reduced rate. If a student does not pay at the time of purchase, the cost will be put on his or her fee bill. If reeds are properly maintained and rotated, they should last at least two months. The costs of reeds are as follows:

Clarinet: \$2.00, Bass Clarinet: \$3.00, Alto Saxophone: \$3.00, Tenor Saxophone: \$3.00,
Baritone Saxophone: \$4.00, Oboe: \$15.00

Lockers

Each student will be assigned a band locker. There will **not** be a fee for lockers; however students are responsible for keeping their instrument in their band locker. The school will not be responsible for items missing from a locker.

ALL-STATE HONOR BAND

The All-State Honor Band is comprised of students from all parishes in Louisiana. An audition process determines membership. This band will perform this year in New Orleans in Mid-January. Students must pass a first-round audition at the District Level prior to auditioning for the All-State Honor Band

DISTRICT HONOR BAND

The District Honor Band is comprised of students from Terrebonne, St. Mary, Lafourche, Assumption, Ascension, St. Charles, St. John, and St. James parishes that make up our district (District VII). An audition process determines membership. This band usually performs in the month of January in Thibodaux or Houma. There are three levels of performing groups: All Youth (6th – 7th grades), Junior High (8th – 9th grades), and Senior High (10th-12th grades). 5th graders are not eligible to audition for District Honor Band.

PARISH HONOR BAND

The Parish Honor Band is comprised of students from the Middle and Elementary Schools within St. Charles Parish. An audition process determines membership for the elementary group. The Middle School group will be a selection process by the directors. This band usually performs in the spring semester. There are three levels of performing groups: All Youth (4th and 5th grades), Middle School (6th, 7th-8th grades), and High School (9th-12th grades). 6th graders that are selected to participate in the Parish Honor Band will be eligible to participate in the Cammon Symphonic Band. We encourage all students to audition for Parish Honor Band.

FUNDRAISING

The ACM Band will be holding fundraising drives annually to raise much needed money for music, travel expenses, and equipment. Students are encouraged to participate and parental involvement is of paramount importance!!!

COMMUNICATION

Communication is of utmost importance in maintaining a successful band program. I can be contacted via e-mail at stumblin@wearescpps.org at any time. All important documents, as well as a monthly calendar will be posted on the Albert Cammon Middle School Band [website](#). Here you will be able to keep track of all after-school rehearsals and performances as well as print any documents that need to be signed and returned.

DAILY EXPECTATIONS and PROCEDURES

The Student Will:

1. always be respectful.
2. not touch any instrument/property that does not belong to them.
3. show positive attitudes only.
4. enter the classroom quietly, go straight to their locker, get their instrument, and go directly to their seat.
5. sit with the correct posture and follow all instructions involving rehearsal techniques.
6. not talk during the warm-up, transitions, or while Mr. Tumblin is speaking.
7. raise their hand and wait to be called on to speak.
8. not talk while Mr. Tumblin is working with another student or section. Shadow playing is an acceptable option.
9. remain in their seat unless told to move.
10. play with appropriate, beautiful sounds at all times.
11. not play out of turn.
12. always have their instrument ready in time to start and stop playing when directed.
13. stay quiet during announcements and interruptions, and will not move before dismissed.

GRADES

As previously mentioned, a large portion of the student's grade will come from playing tests. In addition to tests, all students will receive daily expectation grades. This grade is determined by the quality of the student's performance and behavior in class and rehearsal (as described in "Daily Expectations and Procedures"). The student must participate in all playing exercises and have all needed materials daily. Occasionally students will have inspection tests to make sure they have all necessary equipment.

Academic Grade

1. Playing Tests
2. Written Tests
3. Rehearsal Expectations
4. Practice Logs

NEEDED EQUIPMENT

All students will need to have and maintain:

- Several Pencils to be kept in the instrument case and used in band class only
- Folder (Will be provided)
- Method Book (Included in Fees)
- Instruments
- Percussion- Sticks
- Woodwinds- Reeds
- Brass- Valve Oil & Slide Grease

INSTRUMENTS, MUSIC, AND TEXTBOOKS

Students are responsible for all music and books issued to them. The student is expected to keep his/her instrument clean and in good repair at all times and to follow the instrument care procedures he/she has been taught. If a student has a problem with an instrument, check it out with the director before taking it to the shop. Many times the director can make minor repairs and save the student and parent time and money.