



Welcome to 8th grade band! We are looking forward to being your band directors and challenging you to be even better players! **Please read this letter in its entirety (both sides)** to ensure that you are planning ahead for a most successful year in band.

IMPORTANT DATES: Please mark these dates on your calendar!!!

Required band concerts/rehearsals:

- Fri. October 3rd - halftime at the AHS football game with the AHS marching band
- Mon. December 8th - Winter Concert
- Mon. May 4th - Spring Concert

Attendance at the above performances is mandatory, which is why we are telling you the dates now. Please contact us right away if you have a conflict.

- Solo and Ensemble (at Preble High School):
 - Sat. February 28th, instrumental entries
 - (Sat. March 7th, piano and vocal entries only)
- NEW Music Festival at the Tundra Lodge - Friday, April 17
- Elementary School Tour - Thur - May 21 (During the school day)
(Please note that in order to participate in the NEW Music Festival and Elementary School Tour students must be passing band, have attended all lessons, and be in good standing in all other classes.)

Book: We will be using the Tradition of Excellence Book 2 (blue). Please make sure you have this book each day for band class.

Supplies:

- **Everyone:** a **pencil** in their case or folder and a **flip folder and lyre*** to hold their music during the performance at the football game. If students have not purchased these already, they can be purchased at any local music store. *French Horns, Tubas, Baritones, and Percussionists do not need the lyre, just the flip folder. (Also, the lyres may be specific for the brand of your instrument, please be careful when you purchase)
- **Brass players:** should have **valve oil or slide cream and a spray bottle** depending on their instrument. Students using school owned instruments are still expected to have valve oil (we recommend Blue Juice) to keep the valves in good working order.
- **Woodwind players:** Woodwind instruments (that use reeds) must have **3 working reeds** at all times.
- **Percussionists:** Stick bag with required sticks and mallets from last year. (Please see me if you are new or would like the list of required sticks and mallets.)



Band Shirts:

Everyone will need a band polo shirt to wear for performances. You may still have one from 6th grade. Please check to see if it fits and if you can still find it. If needed, an order form is attached. Please use the order form to order yours if needed. Shirts are between \$17 and \$25. These order forms and checks to Parkview Middle School are due to your music teacher on September 19th.

Opportunities: As 8th graders, there are great opportunities for you to consider. These can include: School ensembles like Jazz Band, clarinet choir, flute choir, woodwind choir, percussion ensemble, brass choir, show choir, triple trio and Solo Ensemble Festival in March. Please listen to announcements and watch the bulletin boards for sign up information and updates. Some of these groups meet year round, others only during solo and ensemble time.

Daily Grade: It is expected that students will attend band class with all needed materials. Band is a performance and participation class, students need to bring their instrument, book, and all needed accessories to be an active participant in band.

Lessons: Each student will be assigned a time for a small group lesson a few times during each quarter. Please take this time seriously and arrive on time and prepared. During these lessons, we will be able to offer you more individualized help and assist you in becoming even better at your instrument. If you miss a lesson, it is required that you make it up on another day.

Play tests: Every student will be graded on their performance of prepared pieces from the book or band music.

The most common problems that develop with band students are:

- Not enough time practicing
- Forgetting the instrument or coming to class unprepared

Stay connected! Join our 8th grade band Google Classroom to stay updated on all things band. Instructions for how to join will be given during class.

Check out the band website for detailed and up to date information all year!!

<https://sites.google.com/ashwaubenonk12.org/parkviewband>

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