

JUNCTION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Band Program

2025-2026



Band Handbook

Junction Elementary School Music

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Welcome to the Junction Elementary School Band!

I am very happy you are here! My experience tells me that BAND STUDENTS are among the BEST STUDENTS in school. I will be expecting a great deal from all of you, and I know

YOU WILL SUCCEED!

The Junction School Band program operates on the P.R.I.D.E. system. What is PRIDE?

Personal Responsibility In Daily Effort

YOU take PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY for yourself. YOU are RESPONSIBLE for your DAILY EFFORT. YOU are the “author” of your life, YOU are “at cause”, YOU make it happen. YOU make the EFFORT on a DAILY basis. It is YOU who will determine your DAILY success or failure. It is up to YOU! This is true in this class, in all your classes, in all your relationships, in your work and ultimately your entire life. It is true now and will be true tomorrow. Say this:

“IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME!”

Take PRIDE in yourself, take PRIDE in your behavior, take PRIDE in your musicianship. I care about each and every one of you and I am here to teach you all I can, but it is ALL UP TO YOU!

Every Day In Class You Need:

- A POSITIVE ATTITUDE – **PRIDE!!**
- Your instrument.
- Your music binder, including MUSIC and METHOD BOOK.
- Pencils (pencil ALWAYS in binder).
- Extra reeds, cork grease, valve oil, drum sticks, etc. depending on your instrument.
- To follow the “Band Room Procedures” (see page 2).
- To treat other people, the instruments, and the room with RESPECT and COURTESY!
- A COMMITMENT to KEEP YOUR WORD, KEEP YOUR PROMISES.

THESE ARE NOT “SUGGESTIONS” OR “GOOD IDEAS”.

THEY ARE REQUIREMENTS. THEY ARE EXPECTED FROM YOU. DAILY!

Band Room Procedures:

1. Enter the band room quietly and with respect for others BEFORE the tardy bell rings.
2. No food, candy, or drinks are allowed in the band room. WE ARE A GUM FREE SCHOOL!
3. Get your instrument from the shelf and your music binder from the music cabinet.
4. **LARGE INSTRUMENTS:** Go to the back or side of the room, assemble your instrument, leave the closed case against the wall, take your seat. Your method book and music binder go on your stand.
SMALL INSTRUMENTS: Take your instrument to your seat, assemble it and put your closed case under your chair. Your method book and music binder go on your stand.
PERCUSSION: Set up drums, remove instrument covers. Method book and music binder go on your stand.

****MUSIC STANDS ARE FOR MUSIC. Do not lean on them or abuse them. ****

5. Good posture, good positioning, good playing habits are EXPECTED at ALL TIMES.
6. Read the board for assignments, warm-ups and order of music. GET RIGHT TO WORK!
7. RESPECT THE PODIUM. When someone steps up to the podium, YOU GET QUIET.
8. You will be expected to REHEARSE with the Director, which means you play when instructed to do so. You DO NOT PLAY during rehearsal without permission. Here is a typical rehearsal:

- A. You assemble your instrument and begin warming up, playing exercises, practicing.
- B. The Director steps up on the podium, you IMMEDIATELY are QUIET.
- C. You take instruction, WATCH and LISTEN.
- D. When the Director raises the BATON, INSTRUMENTS UP. We REHEARSE.
- E. When the Director “cuts you off”, or signals to stop, the BAND is QUIET.
- F. You RAISE YOUR HAND to ask a question. Mark music with PENCIL ONLY.

- G. When the Director steps OFF the podium, you may play, practice, or speak.
- H. The Director steps up on the podium again, you IMMEDIATELY are QUIET, etc.

9. You will be given a few minutes at the end of class to pack up your instrument and put away your music. Once instruments and music are put away, you will quietly return to your chair.

10. You will be excused when the bell rings.

RESULTS! NOT EXCUSES!

Instrument Inspections

From time to time, without prior warning, the Director will ask to inspect your instrument. All inspections will include:

The outside of your case must be clearly labeled with your First and Last Name!

Woodwinds: All keys and pads in playing condition. No loose joints. Instrument, mouthpiece, and reeds must be clean and stored in the correct reed cases. Keys must be properly oiled. All corks must be in good condition.

Brass: All valves and slides in top playing condition. Instruments, mouthpieces, and slides cleaned and/or polished. Mouthpiece free of nicks. Water keys in working order. No stuck slides.

Percussion: Sticks and Mallets kept in Stick Bags at all times, not stored in the band room. Each drum stick and mallet are labeled with student's name. Students must have their own drum key.

Practice, Practice, Practice:

You have HOMEWORK EVERY DAY in Band. You MUST practice. The weekly requirement is 30 MINUTES, 4 DAYS A WEEK, or 2 hours per week. Each of your parents/guardians will be called regarding this requirement. You will have a practice record which your parent/guardian will sign each week. 120 minutes per week prepares you to perform pass offs (see next section). Your music folder slot will be checked daily to see if you have taken your music home to practice.

1. The band room is open daily before school starting at 7:30AM. If you check in with the Director, s/he will sign your practice record for the day you practice in the band room.

PRACTICE RECORDS MUST BE SIGNED!!!

2. Participation in a before or after school sectional will fulfill a 30 minute period of practice for that day. Get used to practicing- set aside a time and place each day for it.
3. You may “mix and match” your practice on different days and the weekend, so long as the weekly average adds up to 120 minutes.

PRACTICING IS REQUIRED, SO DO IT!

4. YOU WILL BECOME AN INCREDIBLE MUSICIAN IF YOU FOLLOW THIS REQUIREMENT. PLAYING WILL BECOME EFFORTLESS FOR YOU. YOU WILL CREATE MIRACLES IN YOUR MUSICAL LIFE FROM YOUR COMMITMENT.

Pass Offs and Lessons from Supplemental Text **(Rubank® Method book)**

All students naturally progress at different levels and speeds. To facilitate the individual’s learning to the maximum of his/her capabilities, each student will have the opportunity to perform Pass Off requirements and Rubank Lessons for the director. These performance opportunities are scheduled during the regular class day. As often as possible, most band members are also encouraged to come before school or stay for after school lessons. These lessons are one-on-one time for the director or private teacher to work with a student on specific goals and performance characteristics unique to that student. Students will receive a grade based on their progress. In addition, each student’s progress, recorded in the Progress Chart, will be used to establish seating within the ensemble. It is the responsibility of each student to be present and prepare for each lesson or pass off. These individual lessons have proven to be the most significant factor in the development and improvement of instrumental programs. Only through a student’s hard work can their own work and their ensemble be **SUPERIOR!** Those students who excel on these progress marks and lessons beyond the average expectation will be investing in their future abilities to audition for COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS. **Students are required to complete one Pass Off per week for 50% of the band grade.**

Concerts, Festivals and Public Performances:

These activities are **required**. We are here to learn and PERFORM! THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR GRADE! Absences from these activities are very serious and will powerfully affect your grade. All absences MUST be cleared well beforehand with the director.

Uniforms and Concert Dress

An important part of any concert performance is the professional appearance of all ensemble members. Members who are well dressed will display a sense of PRIDE that will carry over into the performance. MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT APPROPRIATELY DRESSED FOR A CONCERT MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO PERFORM. The uniform will be determined by the Director, based on the nature of the performance, and announced in written form prior to the concert. Following is an example of some ensemble uniforms.

Formal Uniform:

White Long Sleeve Button-up Shirt
Black Dress Pants
Black Dress Shoes and Socks

Informal Uniform:

Ensemble T-shirt or Polo
Blue Jeans
Shoes and Socks

Class Work/Written Work:

In addition to playing an instrument we will also study Music Theory and History as part of Band. You will use a three-ring binder to collect these assignments, as well as all handouts, practice records and special music pages. This collection is your “Band Handbook”, and will be checked at each grading period, except final concerts and festival performances, which are weighted heavier. Here is a list of items that affect your grade:

1. Do you have your required “Every Day” items? (see page 1)
2. Following Band Room Procedures. (see page 2)
3. Practice record.
4. Attendance at performances.

5. Written assignments/class work.
6. Performance tests and pass offs.

Consequences for Negative Behavior

1. Verbal warning/Student conference (“That’s 1.”)
2. Verbal warning/Seat change (“That’s 2.”)
3. Infraction given, parent/guardian contacted, and loss of learning opportunity in class. (“That’s 3.”) Students will be given the “Chosen Action” Infraction Response Form to be completed and returned with a parent signature the following day.
4. A record of three separate instances infractions will result in after school detention.
5. Severe disruptions will be referred to the office immediately.
6. Once a music student is referred to the office, they will be on probation for the remainder of the grading period and future participation in the music program will be determined by the Director.

BE VERY CLEAR ABOUT WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU THIS YEAR. YOU WILL HAVE THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF BAND TO HAVE ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED. THESE CLASS REQUIREMENTS ARE YOUR COMMITMENT TO YOURSELF TO ACHIEVE GREAT RESULTS IN BAND. **KEEP YOUR PROMISES. DO IT!**

Personal Responsibility In Daily Effort

P.R.I.D.E.

A Few Suggestions:

1. Giving and keeping your word is VERY POWERFUL. You are more powerful than you know. Give your word, make a promise, and keep your promise. You WILL create miracles!
2. Mrs. Pradhan is here to help and support you in your commitments. Utilize her, your parents/guardians and family members, your fellow band members, and your friends. Get the support you need to keep your word.
3. This class is designed to challenge you, to push you beyond your limits. You WILL feel uncomfortable and you may stumble and you will make mistakes. When you fall, get up and get going again.

YOU WILL SEE INCREDIBLE RESULTS IN LIFE AS YOU HAVE PRIDE AND KEEP YOUR WORD. YOU WILL SUCCEED!