

R.W. Kidder Middle School
Mountie Music
Band Handbook 2025-2026



Table of Contents

3	Welcome Letter
4	Mission Statement
4	The Band Program
4	Expectations for Student Conduct
5	Classroom Code of Conduct & Etiquette
6-7	Grading
7	Instrument Practice Policy
7	Late Work Policy
7	Daily Participation Points
8	Performance Attendance Policy
9	Concert Etiquette
9	Uniforms
10	Instruments
10	Performance/Field Trip Policies
11	Band Booster Information
11	Parent/Teacher Communication
11	Class Supply Lists
12-13	2023-2024 KMS Band Calendar

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the R.W. Kidder Middle School Band Program! This handbook has been written to familiarize you with the many aspects of the program and to ensure an enjoyable and educationally rewarding musical experience. Use this handbook throughout the year as your first source of reference when you have questions about band.

Upon receiving this handbook, please take the time to read it thoroughly and completely, paying special attention to the calendar and required events, as well as the grading policy for our class.

I'd like to begin by wishing you a warm welcome into our band family. I am very excited about the year ahead of us and all of the musical and education experiences it holds. The vision for this program is for each student to be given the opportunity, guidance, and support to develop into a proficient musician and solid citizen in our community.

Band is a unique experience that requires both the effort of individuals as well as the effort of the group as a whole. The sound each student produces contributes to the sound of the group; thus, practice outside of the classroom is absolutely essential for the success of our group. It is my belief that every student possesses the musical and mental skills necessary to be an excellent musician as long as they put in the work required to reach the level of musicianship we set out within this program. Success is most likely if the student has the desire as well as the discipline to learn how to play, parents are supportive of what is required for success within the group, and all parties work together to make the group as successful as possible.

The concepts that students will learn through music this year will make them successful; both as musicians as well as people. I am very excited to work with you and your students this year to make our band a huge point of pride for Mountie Nation. Let's have a wonderful year!

Best wishes,

Jasmine Hass

Director of Bands

R.W. Kidder Middle School

Mission Statement

The R.W Kidder Middle School Band Program strives to perform at the highest level of musicality and artistry while promoting a culture of leadership, teamwork, tradition, innovation, and inclusiveness.

The Band Program

The Jackson Northwest band program provides an experience in instrumental music for all students. As parents and educators, we are deeply interested in the educational experience our children are receiving. We believe that music plays a vital role in the growth of every child. Current research confirms that the study of music is one of the most effective tools to improve learning throughout a child's academic curriculum. As educators and role models, we want to help students:

- Develop a habit of persistence that will help them through the tough times in life and keep them on task when it would be easier to quit.
- Learn to be responsible and to see mistakes as an opportunity to grow and make necessary corrections on the pathway to success.
- Master the skills of cooperation so they can enjoy working with their counterparts in every realm of personal and professional life.
- Create a set of personal values that will allow a prosperous and fulfilling lifelong journey and find a way to express these understandings.
- Find a meaningful form of contribution that is significant to self and others.

In many ways, the band experience is a training ground for all of these attributes, as well as many more. We believe that participation in the band has the potential to have a positive impact on important aspects of a child's life. Healthy participation in band develops a child's mind and character, and the disciplines learned in band classes can transfer to all of life.

Expectations for Student Conduct

The Kidder Middle School Band has a proud heritage. Wherever the band goes, its members are representative of Kidder Middle School and the community of Jackson. Whether in or out of uniform, at a performance or rehearsal, on the road, or at home, band members must conduct themselves in a mature and professional manner. Any action by a band member reflects either positively or negatively on the band and the school. The manner in which a KMS band member conducts themselves should never be questioned for appropriateness.

Classroom Code of Conduct

All band students are responsible for reading and adhering to the R.W. Middle School Student Handbook. In addition, the following behavior policies should be observed in the band room **and when representing Kidder Middle School at events off campus:**

1. Remember Everything

- This encompasses all classroom supplies necessary for rehearsal: instrument, music, folder, pencil, nametag, and other materials as specified by the director.

2. QUICKLY follow directions

- When a teacher or instructor gives instructions, carry out those directions quickly in order to keep rehearsal moving and avoid wasting valuable class time.

3. Show Respect

- Show respect to instructors, fellow classmates, the classroom, your equipment, and any other aspects of the band program.
- Raise your hand to speak or to ask to get out of your seat.
- Do not bring food or beverages (other than water in a water bottle) into the band room.
- Do not chew gum in the band room.

4. Keep the Band Director Happy!

- Follow all rules, contribute to classroom discussion in a positive way, and always try your best.

Band directors work with unusually large classes. To maintain the high educational and musical standards, a high standard of conduct must be maintained. Parents and students invest a great deal of time, money and love into the band program to make this an organization in which to be proud. Therefore...

Any student who continually challenges these rules and procedures will be removed from the band program.

Classroom Etiquette

Students are expected to exhibit the following qualities on a consistent daily basis, including at concerts and other performance opportunities:

Effort: proper posture, active listening, sincere attempt to demonstrate mastery.

Responsibility: turns in items on time, a positive contributor to the classroom environment.

Attitude: pleasant demeanor, receptive to instruction, falls in line with class activities, respects adults.

Standards-Based Grading for Grades 6, 7, and 8

Kidder Middle School is in the process of implementing Standards Based Grading throughout all grades. Students will be receiving feedback from practice, which may include things like home practice, class preparation, quizzes, and showing good rehearsal habits. They will also get feedback that indicates if they have mastered the “I can” statements for the class. A score of 3 or 4 will indicate that the student has achieved mastery of the skill, while a score of 1 or 2 will indicate that the student has yet to master the listed skill or standard. All students will have an opportunity, within a reasonable amount of time, to “retake” the test for the standard. A final letter grade will be based on the ratio of mastered skills divided by the total number of skills taught for that marking period.

“I Can” Statements (Standards for Band)

1. I can play scales according to grade level
2. I can perform rhythms according to grade level
3. I can perform using correct articulation
4. I can read and play musical notation according to grade level. (Correct fingerings, rhythms, dynamics, style, tone)
5. I can define and demonstrate music theory (symbols, terms, notation) in music that I am playing
6. I can demonstrate good rehearsal habits (posture, instrument position, breathing, readiness, focus, solving rhythm/fingering issues).
7. I can perform alone to an audience of my peers.
8. I can perform with the ensemble at concerts in appropriate attire.
9. I can demonstrate good concert etiquette (audience, onstage, and backstage).

Habits of Excellence

1. I have developed good practice habits
2. I take good care of my instrument.
3. I am prepared for class (instrument, music, pencils, attitude)

Classroom Tardy Policy

It is crucial that we begin class on time for the sake of all students and instructors in the room. After the tardy bell rings, students will have two minutes to set up their instruments and other materials that they will need. If they need extra time for an extenuating circumstance, they should talk to Mrs. Hass before class officially begins in order to request more time to set up. Once setup time is over, Mrs. Hass will step onto the podium and class will begin. Students that are not in their seats and ready to go at this point will be marked tardy. These tardies will correspond with the tardy policy enforced by the school, which may result in consequences such as lunch detention.

Grading

Grades will be calculated based on the following categories:

- Music Preparation
Demonstrated through in-class quizzes, playing checks, and pass-offs
- Music History, Theory, and Terminology
Demonstrated through worksheets, handouts, and class assignments
- Weekly Participation Grade
Demonstrated through behavior, cooperation, effort, and attitude in class
- Concert Participation
Includes appropriate dress, performance etiquette, and preparation

Instrument Practice Policy

Weekly practice cards will not be required for students in the Kidder Middle School Bands. However, consistent daily practice is expected of all students. Students will demonstrate their preparedness on assigned repertoire, studies, and scales through frequent playing checks and quizzes. It is nearly impossible to do well on these assignments without frequent, focused practice. Therefore, we recommend students plan to spend at least 60 minutes (20 minutes, 3 days) per week practicing their instruments.

Late Work Policy

Classwork, homework, playing check, and quiz assignments are designed to help you master the material we are covering in class. Students will get the most benefit out of assignments if they are turned in on time. When a student is absent from class, any work assigned before the absence will be considered due on the date the student returns to class. Late work will be accepted for partial credit. Remember that some credit is better than no credit!

Daily Participation Points

Students will receive up to 5 points each day for appropriate participation. In order to receive full points, students must be on time to rehearsal, have all supplies for class including all instrument parts, music, and pencil, and must participate appropriately for the entire class period. Any activity or behavior that detracts from the rehearsal and the progress of the band as a whole will result in a loss of participation points.

Performance Attendance Policy

Membership within the R. W. Kidder Middle School Bands carries with it certain privileges. It also requires certain responsibilities. Attending all performances is one of these responsibilities. The size of music groups and their dependence on each member makes attendance at all performances a requirement! **If there is a conflict which will cause you to miss a concert, it is required to let Mrs. Hass know about the conflict A MINIMUM of two weeks in advance so we can make alternative arrangements.**

It is understood that illnesses, emergencies, and “acts of God” occur. If you cannot attend a performance because of a sudden severe illness or death in the family, notification by parent/guardian must be done by handwritten note or email. You will be excused and allowed to complete a make-up assignment. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the director to set up the make-up time, and it is due 2 weeks after the performance. Students with an unexcused absence will not be allowed to make up the concert grade and will receive a 0. **All performances listed in bold on the calendar are required to receive a passing grade in the class. Please write them on your calendar.**

Band members will be expected to participate in all performances in order to be eligible to attend the field trip to Cedar Point at the end of the year.

How to handle conflicts

Students should be encouraged to participate in a variety of activities at this age, and sometimes conflicts will occur. Use the following guidelines to resolve any conflicts:

1. Copy the Band Calendar (included in this handbook) into your family calendar.
2. Notify the directors of any school conflicts as soon as you become aware of them so that the directors may make alternative arrangements.

Make-Up Procedure

If a student unexpectedly misses a concert and it is determined that the absence was legitimate (funeral, emergency etc.), the student will have two weeks from the concert date to arrange for a make-up performance with the band director. During this make-up, they will be asked to play their part along with the recording of the concert for one piece of their choice, in addition to the band director spot-checking the other pieces from the concert. Doing so will give the student up to $\frac{3}{4}$ credit for this concert grade. Students that miss a concert for a **predetermined** reason where the band director was notified **AT LEAST two weeks in advance** (sporting event, family vacation, etc.) should do this to receive full credit for the concert.

It is NOT the responsibility of the director to set up make-up sessions for missed concerts.

If a student does not arrange for a time within the two week time frame, they will have forfeited their right to earn credit toward the concert they missed. Exceptions will only be made for excused absences of an extended period of time, such as medical emergencies that result in an extended hospital stay.

Concert Etiquette

Our concerts are always a lot of fun and represent the fine efforts of our students during the preparation process. Due to the excitement these concerts bring, students can become overzealous in their audience participation. Please help them by reminding them what appropriate concert behavior is. The purpose of these concerts is to showcase the students' musical achievements, not to draw attention to the performer or audience behavior.

Performer Etiquette:

- Do not talk or play out of turn; this is not different from class.
- Do not stand, wave, or draw attention to yourself.
- Keep an eye on the podium to receive instructions.
- After you perform, stay and watch the other groups performing after you.

Audience Etiquette:

- When the lights go down, quickly quiet down.
- SILENCE any cell phones, tablets, or other sound and light emitting devices.
- Do not enter the theater when the band is playing; wait until the selection is over, then enter as quietly as possible.
- Applaud for everyone, after every selection - each group has worked equally hard to present their materials to you.
- When you applaud, do not make unnecessarily loud noise.
- Stay for the entirety of the concert.

Uniforms

All band students will need plain black dress socks (crew length), black dress shoes, and black dress pants.

Beginning Band members will also need to purchase a Mountie Music T-shirt. Concert and Symphonic Band members are required to purchase a Mountie Music polo. Please notify Mrs. Hass for help if you are unable to afford these items.

Instruments

Percussion students are required to provide their own sticks and mallets in a stick bag clearly labeled with their name.

Students are required to provide necessary accessories for their instrument as needed.

Reed players are required to have at least 4 working reeds in cases at all times. Reeds and valve oil are available before or after class, though prices and inventory may vary. It is frequently easier and cheaper for reed players to purchase an entire box of reeds, either by placing an advance order or buying from a local retailer.

A small number of school instruments MAY be available for students in need. An instrument usage contract must be completed and students will be required to provide their own accessories (mouthpiece, reeds, etc.) and will be responsible for any damage that is beyond normal use. The band asks for a payment of \$50 per instrument to cover standard repairs and cleaning at the end of the school year. Instruments must be returned at the end of the year in the same condition that they were issued.

If an instrument is in need of repair, a representative from Quinlan & Fabish Music Company visits each week to pick up needed repairs. Instruments sent for repair will be returned the following week (unless damage is extensive, but this is rare). Students will need to fill out the repair tag and place it with the instrument in the appropriate location for pick up. It is the student and parents' responsibility to pay the repair bill in a timely fashion.

Performance/Field Trip Policies

A student's participation in a band field trip or performance is contingent upon that student meeting criteria established by Kidder Middle School as well as the director. Some of the criteria may include:

- Minimum GPA requirements
- Payment of all band fees/school instrument rental fees
- Demonstration of acceptable behavior (i.e., not receiving referrals, detentions, tardies, etc.)
- Past concert or class participation
- Class assignments completed
- Turning in of requested materials or equipment

Students will be given a reasonable chance to fulfill these requirements in the time preceding each event. If a student does not qualify for a particular event, his/her grade for that event will be determined by the completion of an alternative assignment, to be determined by the director.

Band Boosters

The Northwest Band Boosters is a voluntary, non-profit organization dedicated to support the instrumental Mountie music program. Members include any resident of the Northwest School District interested in supporting the bands. The Band Boosters raise thousands of dollars by operating the football concession stand at home games, MSU concessions, and many other fundraising activities. The Boosters assist with band camp expenses, contribute money for our student lesson program, and help with many other band related expenses. Parents are always welcome to join this wonderful organization, which supports our students! All Band Booster meetings dates are notated on the calendar at the end of this handbook.

Parent/Teacher Communication

E-mail

jasmine.hass@nwschools.org

E-mail is the most convenient form of communication that any band director can employ. IT IS ALSO THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF CONTACTING ANY BAND DIRECTOR to ask questions, get information, or to voice concerns. E-mails can be answered at times that a phone call would not be prudent.

Parents will be added to the band email list based on their information taken from PowerSchool. The distribution list will be used to:

- Send event reminders
- Solicit parent help with band activities
- Solicit parent input regarding band activities
- Send any other parent correspondence

Telephone Band Office: 517-817-4875

Though the phone is not the most effective method of communication, every effort will be made to respond to phone calls in a timely manner. I thank you ahead of time for your patience.

Class Supplies

All band students will need the following items by the beginning of the 2nd week of school

Pencils

Approved instrument & supplies

Folding wire music stand (at home use)

Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 (Beginning band only)

Northwest R.W. Kidder Middle School
Band Calendar 2025-2026

Bold print indicates REQUIRED events

September 11	NW Band Booster Meeting, 6:00 HS Band Room
September 26	8th Grade invades Marching Band at NWHS Home Football <i>Call time 5:15 PM - Symphonic Band ONLY</i>
October 9	NW Band Booster Meeting, 6:00 HS Band Room
October 18	MSBOA District 8 Marching Band Festival (@ NWHS Stadium)
October 23	Mountie Montage @ NW Cafetorium 7:00 PM <i>Call time 6:30 PM - Concert and Symphonic Bands ONLY</i>
November 13	NW Band Boosters meeting, 6:00 HS Band Room
December 11	Winter Concerts @ NW Cafetorium Beginning Band Concert @ 6:00 PM <i>Beginning Band call time 5:40 PM</i> Concert and Symphonic Band Concerts @ 7:00 PM <i>Concert & Symphonic call time 6:40 PM</i>
January 8	NW Band Boosters meeting, 6:00 PM HS Band Room
February 7	Deadline to register for Spring Solo & Ensemble
February 10	Pre-Festival Concert 7:00 PM <i>Call time 6:40 PM - Concert and Symphonic Bands ONLY</i>
February 12	NW Band Boosters Meeting, 6:00 PM HS Band Room
February 27 & 28	MSBOA District 8 Band Festival (location TBD) <i>Call Time TBD - Concert and Symphonic Bands ONLY</i>
March 5	NW Band Boosters meeting, 6:00 PM HS Band Room

- March 7** **Chili & Jazz Fundraiser, 6:00 PM**
MS Jazz Band Call time 5:30 PM
- April 9 NW Band Boosters meeting, 6:00 PM HS Band Room
- April 18 MS Spring Solo & Ensemble
- May 7 NW Band Boosters meeting, 6:00 PM HS Band Room
- May 12** **MS Band/Choir Collage Concerts @ NW Cafetorium**
Concerts 6:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Jazz Band Call Time 5:30 PM
Concert Band Call Time 5:40 PM
Symphonic Band Call Time 7:10 PM
- May 13** **Beginning Band/Choir Collage Concert @ NW Cafetorium 7:00 PM**
Jazz Band Call Time 6:30 PM
Beginning Band Call Time 6:40 PM
- June 8 Cedar Point Trip (Members with perfect concert attendance
AND a C- or better are eligible)

Bold print indicates REQUIRED events

If a band member is unable to attend a performance, a **MINIMUM** of two weeks notice from a primary caregiver is required in order to be eligible for a make-up assignment. Please see the band handbook for further information regarding absences at performances.