

TUPELO MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK 2026-2027

**Tupelo Middle School Band
1109 Varsity Drive
Tupelo, MS 38801**

662.84.8780

Directors:

Emily Hercules - edhercules@tupeloschools.com
Christopher Knox – clknox@tupeloschool.com

Dustin Thrasher, Director of Bands – dthrasher@tupeloschools.com

www.tupelobands.com

Purpose

The purpose of the Tupelo Middle School Band is to provide students with a meaningful music education while representing our school with pride and excellence. We strive for the highest level of performance in everything we do while building responsibility, citizenship, and strong teamwork. We believe we are stronger together than we are individually.

Introduction

This handbook serves as a guide for students and parents regarding the expectations, policies, and procedures of the Tupelo Middle School Band Program.

While every effort has been made to provide clear and consistent information, the band staff reserves the right to make adjustments as needed to best serve the program and its students.

Expectations

The Tupelo Middle School Band is committed to excellence in both performance and behavior. Students are expected to:

- Demonstrate respect for directors, staff, and peers
- Maintain focus and effort during rehearsals
- Represent the program positively at all times

Students who do not meet these expectations may be subject to school disciplinary procedures and may lose the privilege of participating in performances or special events at the directors' discretion.

Attendance

Because band is a performance-based class, all concerts, football games, and scheduled performances are required.

General Guidelines:

- Absences must follow Tupelo Public School District policy
- Documentation (parent note, doctor's note, etc.) must be provided within 2 school days
- Communication in advance is expected whenever possible

Excused Absences may include:

- Illness or injury
- Family emergency or funeral
- Approved school conflict (with advance notice)

Unexcused Absences include:

- Transportation issues
- Optional appointments
- Situations that could be avoided with proper planning

Unexcused absences or excessive tardiness may result in:

- Grade reduction
- Loss of performance opportunities

We recognize that many students are involved in multiple school activities. When conflicts arise, early communication allows us to work toward a solution whenever possible.

Note: Only the Gold Band performs at designated middle school football games.

Grading Policy

Grades are based on:

- Playing assessments (tone, accuracy, musicianship, posture, and effort)
- Class participation and effort
- Preparedness (materials and instrument)
- Attendance at required performances

Performances may serve as major or final exam grades.

Students who miss a performance with an excused absence will complete an alternate assignment.

Band Attire

A professional and unified appearance is expected at all performances.

Standard Attire (most events):

- Band t-shirt
- Jeans/shorts
- Belt
- Closed-toe shoes

Concert Attire:

Students should wear dress attire (“Sunday Best”) in accordance with the school dress code (no jeans, t-shirts, or athletic shoes).

Gold Band (State Evaluation Attire – Concert Black):

- Black dress pants or skirt/dress
- Black dress shirt or blouse
- Black dress shoes and socks
- Minimal accessories

Instruments: Storage and Care

Students are responsible for the proper care of their instruments and storage space.

- Assigned storage areas must be kept clean and organized
 - Personally owned instruments must be maintained in good condition
 - School-owned instruments require a signed checkout form and a rental fee of \$50 per semester for regular maintenance.
 - Students utilizing school-owned instruments are responsible for damages beyond normal wear.
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Required Materials

- 1-inch black binder
 - Page protectors
 - Band book/music
 - Pencil
 - Lyre and flip folder (Gold Band only)
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Band Fees

Band Fee: \$50 (Due September 1, 2025)

Fees support:

- Music purchases
- Festival participation
- Clinicians and judges
- Transportation and supplies

There is an additional fee of \$50 per semester for school-owned instruments. These will be due on September 1, 2026 and February 1, 2027.

Payment plans are available if needed. Communication is crucial if assistance is required.

Instrument Changes

Instrument changes are made only when necessary and at the discretion of the directors. Consistency is important for both individual growth and ensemble balance.

After-School Lessons and Practice

After-school lessons and practice opportunities will be offered throughout the year.

Students who participate must:

- Remain actively engaged in practice or assigned work
- Follow all behavioral expectations

This privilege may be revoked if misused.

Behavior & Conduct

Students are expected to:

- Show respect to directors, staff, and peers
- Respond appropriately to instruction and correction
- Maintain focus and discipline

Disruptive or uncooperative behavior may result in consequences and loss of participation opportunities.

Removal from Band

Students who consistently fail to meet expectations may be removed from the program.

Progressive Process:

1. Student conference/parent contact
2. Intervention plan
3. Parent meeting
4. Removal from the program

Please note that steps can be skipped based on the severity of the infraction.

Program Alignment Statement

The Tupelo Band Program is a comprehensive 6–12 experience. Expectations, discipline, and musical standards are intentionally aligned between middle school and high school to ensure consistency and long-term success.

Calendar (Abbreviated)

Fall 2026

- August 26 – TMS vs. Starkville
- September 2 – TMS vs. Louisville (Gold)
- September 9 – TMS vs. Columbus (Gold)
- October 7 – TMS vs. Pontotoc (Gold)

- November 4 – Band Night
- December 5 – Tupelo Christmas Parade (Gold)
- December 9 – Christmas Concert

Spring 2027

- January – All-State Auditions (TBA)
- February 13–14 – Honor Band
- March – State Evaluations
- March – Solo & Ensemble (TBA)
- April – Honor Band (TBA)
- April 30 – Spring Concert

TUPELO MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND CONTRACT

2026–2027 School Year

We, the undersigned, acknowledge that we have read, understand, and agree to comply with all guidelines, expectations, and policies outlined in the **Tupelo Middle School Band Handbook**.

We understand that the Tupelo Middle School Band Program is designed to prepare students for continued participation in the Tupelo Band Program and that adherence to these standards is essential to the success and integrity of the organization.

Student Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student T-shirt Size (please circle one)

Youth- Medium Large

Adult- Small Medium Large XLarge 2XLarge

