



Student Name

OAK GROVE

MIDDLE SCHOOL

BAND HANDBOOK



Band Director:
Anthony Fuoco



FORWARD

Oak Grove Middle School would like to welcome you to the band program. Let's work together to achieve our musical goals. Please read this book carefully as it contains very important information.

School Insurance Is Mandatory in Pinellas County!

I. BAND POLICY

Bands at OGMS:

Beginning Band - Students in grade 6-8 who have little or no experience on wind instruments.

Percussion class - students in grade 6-8 who have had little or no experience on percussion instruments.

Intermediate Band - students in grade 7-8 who have 1 or more years of experience and have successfully completed the beginning band or percussion class.

Knight Band - Advanced band students in grade 7-8 determined by audition.

Jazzy Knights - Extra curricular band determined by audition. Rehearsals will be on Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 am. Additional rehearsals are added as needed.

A. Responsibilities of Band Students:

1. Be in your assigned seat with your instrument, folder, and pencil one minute after the tardy bell rings.
2. Play only your instrument.
3. Keep all music in folder. You will be accountable for replacement costs.
4. Walk at all times.

5. Have all band equipment (instrument, folder, accessories, etc.) at all rehearsals. All reed players must have three reeds at all times and brass players must have all appropriate oils.
6. Study your music (rhythms, fingerings, etc.) while director is working with other sections or individuals.
7. Keep food, drinks, gum, or candy out of the band room.
8. Attend all performances and after school rehearsals.
9. Speak or play with permission only.
10. Stay in assigned seat unless given permission otherwise.

B Consequences

Step 1. Verbal warning.

Step 2. Behavior Check-Three behavior checks in a week will result in a parent/teacher phone conference.

Step 3. Severe disruption and or 3 behavior checks within a class period will result in immediate referral to the office and possible expulsion from the band program.

Conduct Grade Key:

Zero behavior checks in a 6 weeks = **E**

1-6 behavior checks in a 6 weeks =**S**

7-10 behavior checks in a 6 weeks=**NI**

11 or more behavior checks in a 6 weeks=**U**

C. Privileges-Granted by Director's discretion.

1. Student conducting classes
2. Field Trips
3. Recital days
4. Small group practice days
5. Band Picnic

II. BAND OFFICERS

The following band officers are selected by the band students in the Knight Band unless otherwise stated.

A. President

1. Student representative for Knight Band.
2. Promotes student achievement within the band and

- announces achievements to the school.
3. Reports to the directors any problems or suggestions.
 4. Announces proceedings of the meetings to the band.
 5. Announces student birthdays.
 6. Dismisses the band at the end of rehearsal.

B. Representative (Beginning and Intermediate)

1. Student representative from each band.
2. The same responsibilities as President listed above except announcing achievements.
3. Assist in passing out and collecting music.

C. Vice President

1. Promotes band spirit and morale.
2. Assist with issuance and collection of all uniforms.
3. Inspects students for proper concert uniform.
4. Responsible for proper set up of the concert band for rehearsals and concerts.
5. Assumes the responsibilities of the president in his/her absence.

D. Secretary

1. Records the minutes of the meeting.
2. Passes back graded practice records and tests.
3. Works to keep band room clean and neat.

E. Librarian

1. Assist in passing out and collecting all music.
2. Properly files music.

F. Historian

1. Keep historical records of activities of the band for the year.
2. Keep the band scrapbook in order.
3. Photograph the band at various concerts.

G. Student conductor (by audltion In each class)

1. Begins the warm up of the band when asked.
2. Rehearses the band on various band music.
3. Conducts on concert.

Additional responsibilities for all officers

1. Order and discipline.
2. Morale and spirit.
3. Cooperative attitudes.
4. Achievement on instrument.
5. Attend Band Officer meetings.

****Any officer falling to comply with the following guidellnes, will be called before the council for possible dismissal.****

III. BAND CALENDAR

The following calendar is tentative and will be revised and up-dated as soon as possible.

- A. September - November
 1. Open House
 2. Band Pictures
 3. Knight Band to perform with CHS at football game.
 4. Music Field Trip
- B. December
 1. Winter Concerts(school, pier, El. school)

- C. February - March
 - 1. Solo/ Ensemble Festival
 - 2. Concert Band Festival
 - 3. Band Fund raiser
 - 4. All County band
- D. April - May
 - 1. Spring Awards Concert
 - 2. Busch Gardens (Knights & Jazz Bands, and 8th graders)
 - 3. Band Picnic (All band students who meet criteria)!!!!

FIELD TRIP POLICY:

A properly completed Pinellas County Field Trip Permission Form must be turned in to the director by the assigned due date. No hand written notes, or phone calls will be accepted. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Any band student who misses school due to a music field trip, **MUST** make up all missed work according to the **TEACHER'S** requirements. If a student fails to do this, he/she will not be permitted to attend the next music field trip. This is extremely important to Knight Band members due to various performing commitments during school hours.

IV INSTRUMENT CARE AND BAND EQUIPMENT

A. Brass

- 1. Rinse brass instruments out with lukewarm water frequently and use a snake for more thorough cleaning.

2. Oil valves and place slide cream on slides as needed.
3. Use a mouthpiece brush for cleaning the inside of the mouthpiece.

B. Woodwinds

1. Swab instrument out after each use.
2. Wash mouthpiece biweekly with mild soap and lukewarm water.

C. Repairs

1. All school owned instrument repairs must go through the band director.
2. Individually owned instruments should be taken to the most professional repairman possible. See the director before attempting any repairs.

D. School Rental

Some larger and more expensive instruments are available for rent through the school. At the time of issue, the band member will be asked to pay a reasonable fee for the year. The student is then responsible for caring for the instrument and assumes costs for dents or damages due to negligence.

E. Music and Folders

Section leaders will conduct monthly inspections of music folders. Show respect for all music issued to you and use only a light pencil to mark on it !!!

F. Instrument Storage

All instruments are to be stored in the slot assigned. Instruments are to be put in their cases and closed.

V. MUSIC ROOM

- A. Band Room - Keep the chairs and music stands in place and use the waste baskets for items to be thrown away.
- B. Practice Rooms - Three rooms will be used for practice only. Two chairs and two stands will be kept in these rooms at all times. You may add chairs and stands to accommodate the ensemble that is rehearsing for festival performances, and return them to the band room immediately following the rehearsal.
- C. Music Library - Librarians are the only people that need access to the library. If you would like to check-out music, ask the Band Director or librarians first.

VI. GRADING POLICY

In brief, all band students are on a point system. Points are accumulated each 6 weeks for doing certain tasks correctly and on time. Final grades for band are an accumulation of the things we have done during the 6 weeks in class and outside of class. Low test grade: and no practice sheet turned in, are the most common reason for lower grades.

A. Participation In Class (60 points)

All students receive 2 points per day / 10 points per week.

60 points per 6 weeks for coming to class with instrument, music, pencil, and an attitude of learning. Minus points (-2 points per day) are given for not doing these things.

B. Tests - Playing and Written

Tests are given throughout the school year based on the materials covered in class and during rehearsals. Students will know in advance the points possible toward the 6 weeks grade.

C. Home Practice (10 -20 points per 6 wks.)

All musicians are expected to practice individually and we assign 10 hours of practice outside of the band class per 6 weeks. This is a minimum requirement, and is like homework in other subjects where a student's grade is dependent on the completion of all work assigned. Each hour counts as one point with a maximum of 20 points per 6 weeks.

Complete practice records are due the Wednesday before the end of each 6 weeks.

Reward: Those students who receive an "A" in band the first 5 six weeks, will be exempt from turning one in on the last six weeks.

The band room will be open most mornings from 8:30 to 9:15 A.M. for individual practice and extra help. It is the student's responsibility to have the director initial the practice record the morning the student uses the band room to practice. Students are to check the board weekly for the practice schedule.

D. Concerts (10 points)

Membership in the band automatically includes attendance at concerts. Activities scheduled on the band calendar are part of the curriculum. It is assumed that if a student joins band, that he/she desires to perform

with the band. All bands will perform at least two evening concerts throughout the school year. The Winter Concert is in December, and the Spring Concert is in May. Dates for the concerts are published well in advance, so with the exception of illness, accident, or emergencies, all members are expected to participate. If absent due to one of the items listed above, a note is required the day the student returns to school in order to be excused. Any conflicts must be in writing and cleared 2 weeks in advance.

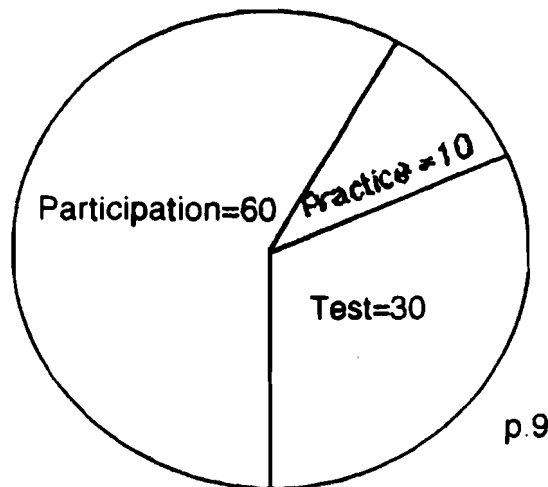
The Knight Band however, is a performing band and will have numerous obligations. It is suggested that if a student cannot commit himself/herself to the Knight Band activities, that he/she remain in the Intermediate Band.

E. Extra Credit (Maximum of 10 points)

1. Jazzy Knights students may count rehearsal time if notated correctly on their practice record.
2. Students who take private lessons may count each lesson as practice time. Private lessons are strongly encouraged but not required.

(We will say this concerning private study. Students who study privately do tend to show steady, consistent, and positive progress. Due to the fact that the private teacher is dealing with one on one, serious mistakes, weaknesses, and poor habits can be corrected immediately.)

3. Attendance of musical concerts or events outside of school. Students are to bring in the program and a written paragraph about what they heard. (5 points)



VII. HELPFUL HINTS ON HOW TO PRACTICE

A. Practice daily!!!!

B. Warm - up

Play long tones or whole notes. Start each tone softly, then in one breath gradually increase volume and then decrease volume.

C. Loosen fingers by playing scales - slowly at first.

D. Now practice the lesson or band parts. When you cannot make the part sound correct, STOP! Make an exercise out of the difficult part. Try to count the part slowly, then play only portion of the measure until the notes feel comfortable. Gradually build each measure to the correct tempo.

E. Why are you practicing? Remember, it is more fun to play if you play well, and practicing makes that possible.

F. Clean instrument after practice and put your instrument in your case and music in your folder. Music is never folded or put in a case unless the case is designed to hold music.

****** Review ******

1. Practice the same amount of time daily.
2. Play for your family at least once a week.
3. Play something you enjoy during the last minutes of practice.

**G. Practice before and after school:
See Home Practice.**

VIII. CHALLENGES

Challenges will be held every other Thursday during band for those who would like to move up in their sections.

A challenger may not challenge two consecutive weeks in a row. Challenges will stop 3-4 weeks before a scheduled performance. Challenge forms are to be submitted 1 week in advance. Challenges are permitted in Knight Band and Intermediate Band only.

IX. UNIFORMS (Concerts and Band Photo)

BEGINNING BAND/PERCUSSION CLASS

1. Black pants, plain white shirt (preferably button down or polo type shirt), black or dark socks, and black shoes.

INTERMEDIATE BAND

1. Black pants, white button down collar shirt, black or dark socks, and black shoes.
2. The school will provide a cummerbund and bow tie.

KNIGHT BAND

1. Black pants, white button down collar shirt, black or dark socks, and black shoes.
2. Students will purchase a band polo shirt to be worn at all outdoor and casual concerts.
3. The school will provide a cummerbund and bow tie.

JAZZY KNIGHTS

1. Black pants, white button down collar shirt, black or dark socks, and black shoes.
2. Students will purchase a band polo shirt to be worn at all outdoor and casual concerts.

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Purpose

Respect

Intense

Dedication

Excellence