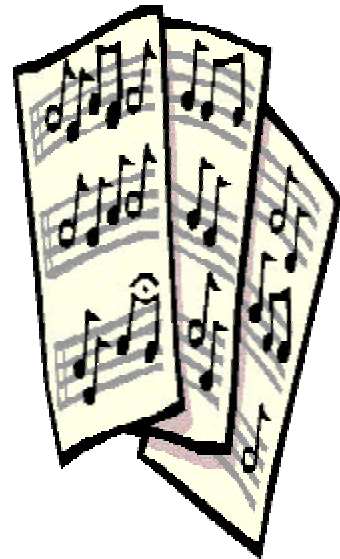


Merrimack Middle School

Band Handbook



Miss Gerken
2005-2006

Introduction

Hello! Welcome the Merrimack Middle School Band Program! My name is Holly Gerken and I am no less than thrilled to be here with you. I have heard fabulous things about the music program in Merrimack.

Mr. Fussell kindly left me a copy of last year's band handbook which I have found especially helpful. Interestingly, Mr. Fussell and I have very similar (and sometimes identical) philosophies on things such as ensemble construction, chair placement, advanced student opportunities, concert attendance, and concert dress. If some of the wording in this handbook sounds familiar, don't be surprised! On the flip side, there will most certainly be some differences. Please be sure to read the handbook carefully.

Being new to Merrimack and New Hampshire, I will be learning things about the program and state-wide events as the year progresses. On that end, while I have included all of the dates that I am aware of, the calendar at the end of this handbook may not be complete. If events are added through the year, I will let you know at the very earliest opportunity.

Please read the information in this handbook very carefully and keep it in your band folders. Ultimately, our success depends upon every student being committed and giving his or her best every day. As with any team sport, every student matters. Everyone must agree to participate in a cooperative, positive manner.

Again, welcome to the 2005-2006 Merrimack Middle School Band! This will undoubtedly be a year of transition for all of us, but I am looking forward to great things. Please feel free to contact me regarding any questions, thoughts, or concerns you may have. I am so excited about this opportunity and am looking forward to getting to know each of you.

Miss Holly Gerken
Instrumental Music Director
603-424-6289 ext. 310
holly.gerken@merrimack.k12.nh.us

"I think music in itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity." - Billy Joel

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"Music is the universal language of mankind." – Longfellow

About the director:

After spending her early years in New York and Kansas City, Miss Gerken received her Bachelor's of Music Education degree from The Ohio State University in 1987, with a concentration in Percussion. Her first teaching job was with the East Clinton School District where she taught the high school's marching band, concert band, and jazz band as well as the younger beginning band and middle school band. Miss Gerken was honored to be the Clinton County nominee for the Sallie Mae Outstanding First Year Teacher Award.

In 1990, Miss Gerken fulfilled a lifelong ambition when she was accepted with scholarship to the Berklee College of Music in Boston. While at Berklee, she studied jazz performance, song writing, arranging and world music. Boston clearly lived up to her expectations because she didn't return to the Midwest as originally planned after one year. One year at Berklee became two, and by that point, she knew she didn't want to leave! Miss Gerken stayed in town and began working on a performing career (while waiting tables to help pay the rent!).

In 1995, Miss Gerken's desire to teach had grown stronger than ever and she was hired at Memorial Middle School in Beverly, Massachusetts. Over her span of 10 years at Memorial, Miss Gerken taught 6th grade band, 7th, grade band, 8th grade band, general music and drama. In addition to these classes, she was the director/producer of the annual school musical, an extra-curricular activity that included as many as 150 students each year in the cast, crew, and pit. Miss Gerken's shows include, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Peter Pan*, *Oliver*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Bye Bye Birdie*.

Miss Gerken received her Master's of Education Degree from Endicott College in 2000, and in 2004, she received the Outstanding Educator of Music Award from the Massachusetts Alliance for Arts Education. Most recently, Miss Gerken spear-headed the efforts to develop and implement a Music Technology Lab at Memorial. Supported entirely by fund-raising efforts, the MIDI Lab currently maintains 14 computer/keyboard stations with state-of-the-art software.

Miss Gerken has extensive performing experience, currently performing with such organizations as the Cape Ann Symphony, Melrose Symphony, Symphony by the Sea, Salem Winds, and the Tom Bruhl Trio. Highlights of her performance experience include a 2-week concert band tour of Japan, touring with the Star of Indiana Drum and Bugle Corps, studying privately with Ed Saindon and Victor Mendoza, playing behind Gary Burton and Dave Samuels (two long-time idols) and a performance at Carnegie Hall in October of 2002.

"Music is your own experience, your own thoughts, your wisdom. If you don't live it, it won't come out of your horn." - Charlie Parker

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

Concert Band

The Concert Band is made up of 7th and 8th Grade students who have played in band for at least 2 years prior and/or display an appropriate level of skill development. The band rehearses every day from 7:00 am to 7:40 am. The director may designate certain days specifically for woodwinds, brass, or percussion rehearsals. Students who participate in band may also participate in chorus. Participation in both groups, however, is ultimately at the discretion of the band and chorus directors, as students are expected to be able to perform the music of both groups adequately. Students who perform with both band and chorus will rehearse with each group on alternate days.

Rehearsal Schedule for students in both Band and Chorus:

Week A

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Band	Chorus	Band	Chorus	Band

Week B

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chorus	Band	Chorus	Band	Chorus

Miss Gerken will determine chair placements. Chair placement may fluctuate over the course of the year. Students will not audition for chair placement. Chair placements will be done with the understanding that strong students are needed on all parts. Therefore, the level of a student's ability cannot be determined from the part he/she is assigned.

Any student wanting to join band who does not have adequate prior experience will be required to take private lessons first. It is necessary that students reach a level of skill that will allow them to be successful with the level of assigned music. This policy is designed in the best interest of the student and the group as a whole. Miss Gerken will help direct students to suitable private instructors.

Concert Band is a graded academic class. Attendance at all rehearsals is mandatory. Students are also expected to attend all required performances. The grading and concert attendance policies are outlined later in this handbook.

Jazz Band

The MMS Jazz Band is an exciting group that will perform several times throughout the year. The group offers students the chance to play different types of music (jazz, blues, Latin, rock) than ordinarily played in a concert band. Standard instrumentation includes alto sax, tenor sax, bari sax, trumpet, trombone, guitar, bass, keyboards, and drum set. Occasionally, certain pieces may call for additional instrumentation. Students must audition for this group. Students must also be members of the Concert Band (except for guitar, bass, and keyboards).

Jazz band rehearses once a week in the evening. The specific day and time will be determined when the group is chosen. Although Jazz Band rehearses outside of regular school hours, students will receive a special grade on their grade card. Jazz Band rehearsals are academic; students who are interested in participating in other after-school activities will still be required to attend all jazz band rehearsals.

"Jazz will endure just as long people hear it through their feet instead
of their brains." - John Philip Sousa

Additional Performing Ensembles

Additional performing ensembles may be formed through the year. Possibilities include: a percussion ensemble, an advanced/symphonic band, and small group ensembles for the Solo and Ensemble Festival.

"Play the music, not the instrument." --Unknown

BAND INSTRUMENTATION AND INSTRUMENT TRANSFERS

As students progress through the bands in each grade, their abilities improve. As overall abilities improve, the complexity and instrumentation needs of developmentally appropriate music increases as well. For our band to perform the programmed music as the composer intended, it is crucial that we have students playing all of the required instruments in the appropriate ratios.

Some students have the ability and potential to succeed on a secondary instrument. When appropriate, Miss Gerken may ask a student to switch to a secondary instrument. Of course, these students will be provided with the instruction necessary to ensure success. Some common instrument transfers include:

Trumpet to French Horn
Trumpet to Tuba
Alto Saxophone to Tenor/Bari Sax
Clarinet to Oboe
Clarinet to Bass Clarinet
Flute to Piccolo
Flute to Bassoon

Miss Gerken will make every effort to honor a student's wishes in playing the instrument of his or her choice. In rare cases, it may be necessary to require that a student play a secondary instrument.

It is usually only students who show a high level of ability who are asked to consider a secondary instrument. These students usually look forward to the experience and feel honored to be presented a new challenge that will help the band as a whole!

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are not required for participation in band but are highly encouraged and have been shown to bolster and accelerate the musical learning process. Students at this level typically respond very well to one on one instruction that caters to each student's individual needs. Unlike the small groups that will meet during music class time, private lessons can continue through the year and are truly individualized. We encourage all students to study privately if it is possible. Please see Miss Gerken for help in finding a qualified teacher in the area.

TRANSPORTATION FOR REHEARSALS AND CONCERTS

Due to the early start time of band rehearsals, it may be difficult getting students to rehearsal promptly. Because there are many unavoidable interruptions during rehearsal time, it is very important that we start rehearsal on time. Parents, please do everything you can to arrange for alternate transportation for your child if the bus they would ordinarily ride arrives after 7:00 am. Help and awareness in this area will make an enormous difference in the productivity of our rehearsals! Parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from concerts as they are held during the evening. Transportation to state festivals will be provided by the school.

CONCERT DRESS

We are a team! It is important that we present ourselves as such. When we perform, we represent not only ourselves, but a larger whole - the Music Department, Merrimack Middle School, and our community. It is the first impression our audience will have of our group and we want to look sharp! Concert dress guidelines are as follows:

Boys: white button-down shirt (tucked in) with collar, black pants, black socks, black shoes, tie

Girls: white shirt, black skirt (preferably) or pants, black shoes

Please, no jeans or sneakers. If you have any difficulties obtaining any of these items, please let Miss Gerken know as soon as possible (not the day before the concert!) so that we may assist you. It is extremely important that all students adhere to the dress code.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Delayed opening: morning band rehearsal will be cancelled. Instrumental music classes affected by the delay will also be cancelled.

After-school activities cancelled: any student with after-school band commitments will ride their regular busses home. Also, evening band rehearsals will be cancelled.

Winter Concert cancelled due to weather: we will utilize the snow day that has been built into the concert schedule. An announcement regarding the cancellation will be made via the Music Department informational mailbox, which can be reached through the school voice-mail system.

*If all after-school activities are cancelled and the announcement is made during the school day, the concert will automatically be cancelled.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND REQUIRED SUPPLIES

We understand that certain instruments, due to sheer size and financial burden, are not always acquirable for purchase. For this reason, the music department does maintain a limited inventory of instruments for student use when one cannot be acquired outside of school. This includes larger instruments such as bass clarinets, tenor saxophones, baritone saxophones, horns, euphoniums (baritones), and tubas.

REQUIRED DAILY SUPPLIES

- *instrument
- *pencil
- *all music
- *technique book – “Foundations for Superior Performance” (Williams/King; Kjos Pub.)
- *2(+)good reeds at all times and cork grease (reed instruments); valve oil/slide oil (brass)
- *Flip Folder and Lyre – we will use these for the performance on October 7th
- *Instrument cases - clearly labeled with name and phone number
- *Other maintenance supplies (see next page) are recommended, but not required
- *Also, students must take their instrument home every night (unless prior arrangements have been made) for practice!

***Reeds, Slide/Valve Oil, Cork Grease, Technique Books, Flip Folders and Lyres** can be purchased from Miss Gerken at School - **checks made out to MMS**. An order form is included with this handbook. Other supplies must be purchased on your own. Please let me know if you have trouble acquiring these items.

Students will be checked regularly on these items. These checks will be calculated with their quiz grades.

REPAIRS

Whether the instrument belongs to the student or the school, it is expected that the students will take responsibility for its upkeep.

In most cases, instruments will be sent to Ted Herbert's Music and Arts in Manchester. They have a representative who comes to Merrimack Middle School on a weekly basis. The representative can take your instrument for repair and in many cases provide a loaner instrument for you to use while yours is being fixed. If you do NOT want your instrument sent to Ted Herbert's (perhaps you are renting your instrument from another music store), PLEASE let me know. Of course, you are welcome to use any repair company you choose. Ted Herbert's simply provides a service that offers additional convenience.

WOODWIND SPECIFIC

Whenever a key ceases to work properly, or it appears that something has become bent or a spring is out of place, do not attempt to fix it yourself. Bring it to Miss Gerken immediately. She will be able to determine if it is something she can fix herself or if it must be sent to a professional instrument repair technician.

BRASS SPECIFIC

All too often, mouthpieces become lodged in the instrument. This most often happens when students hit the mouthpiece while it is inserted into the instrument (because it makes a funny “popping” noise). Please avoid this temptation! Sometimes dirt buildup or excessive pressure from the lips can also cause a mouthpiece to become stuck. If this occurs, NEVER try to twist the mouthpiece out. Twisting the leadpipe of the instrument can cause a significant amount of damage if not done properly. See Miss Gerken immediately so that a mouthpiece remover tool can be used to dislodge the mouthpiece properly. Valves and slides should be lubricated regularly.

PERCUSSION SPECIFIC

As drumheads are used and subjected to changes in humidity, they will occasionally lose the desired tension. A loose drumhead will have a dead “thud” type of sound to it, while a drumhead that is too tight will produce a sharp ringing or pinging tone. If you think your drumhead needs adjustment, do not attempt to adjust it on your own, even if you have your own drum key. They can break if not adjusted properly. See Miss Gerken so that she can show you how to properly adjust the tension of the drumhead.

SUGGESTED MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES

The purpose of these supplies is to care properly for your instrument and protect your investment! If instruments and supplies are treated with care, they will last for many, many years. Reeds will have to be replaced more frequently.

Flute

Flute rod; small clean cloth

Oboe and Bassoon

2+ good reeds

Clarinet

2+ good reeds (\$1.25 each/Bass - \$2.00)

Reed case for every reed

Mouthpiece brush; Cleaning Swab

Thumbcase; Mouthpiece cap

Cork grease (\$1.00)

Saxophone

2+ good reeds (alto - \$1.75/tenor - \$2.00/bari - \$2.75)

Reed case for every reed

Cleaning swab; Mouthpiece brush; Mouthpiece cap

Cork Grease (\$1.00); End cap; Neck strap

Brass

Valve/Slide Oil (\$2.00); Mouthpiece brush

Percussion

1 pair Vic Firth “SD1 General” drumsticks

(or other “5B” type drumstick) (required!)

ATTENDANCE POLICY = 100% COMMITMENT!

Perhaps the greatest aspect of joining band is that it is a mutual CHOICE that you made with your child. Nowhere else in the academic curriculum are students given the choice to be in a class. Math is required, social studies is required, and even classes such as art and technology education are mandatory. Band and chorus are the only academic electives offered at Merrimack Middle School. What results is a class in which all students WANT to be there! Since this is indeed the case, it is absolutely essential that students remain **100% committed** to the choice they made to be in the band.

An unwavering dedication to excellence has always been a key component of the music program in Merrimack. While excellence certainly takes many forms in music, it must begin with the very essence of what we do, which is to perform our art. Since performances require all members to be present in order to be truly successful (think of a baseball game with no pitcher), attendance at all performances is absolutely crucial. So, celebrate the choice that was made to be involved in music making: be present for all required activities and performances!

Rehearsal Attendance

Band rehearsals are academic classes and are mandatory, as are all other classes during the school day. Students who are in band should not participate in other activities that occur during this morning rehearsal time (working on projects for other classes, morning detentions, socializing in the hallway, etc.). Miss Gerken will be taking attendance during band and absences will be reported to the office. Failure to report to a band rehearsal will be considered cutting class and appropriate consequences (teacher/administrative detentions - as outlined in the MMS Student/Parent handbook) will be administered.

Students are expected to be on time to rehearsal. Doors to the band room will be open by 6:50 every morning. When students arrive, they should begin setting up their instrument and finding their seats promptly, ready to begin practice at 7:00 am.

Students who rely on bus transportation all or part of the time are expected to report immediately to the band room upon arrival. Every minute counts. No socializing in the hallways!

"Music washes away from the soul, the dust of every day life." – Red Auerbach

Official Concert Attendance Policy

It is the policy of the Merrimack Middle School Band Department that concerts and performances are an integral part of the learning process in music education. It is expected that when students choose to participate in band, they accept the responsibilities that go along with participation. There will be evening concerts during the school year. These events are considered part of the course requirements. Concert participation results in a grade for all students. This grade is based on attendance, punctuality, concert dress, effort, and behavior. Students are expected to stay for the entire concert and we again ask that students adhere to the concert dress code as stated in this handbook.

It is understood that some legitimate conflicts may arise, but we ask that all participating students and parents check the performance dates as soon as they are announced and make every effort to arrange their schedules accordingly. Please do not make other plans on these dates. Outside-of-school activities such as youth sports leagues, clubs, or even private music lessons should not take precedence over a graded school subject. Missing a concert because of these outside activities will be considered unexcused and the student will not receive credit for that part of their band grade. If transportation is a problem, understand that many students in the middle school are also attending the concert. Please plan ahead with a neighbor or friend for alternative ways to get your child to the concert. Excused absences include illness, religious commitments, and family emergencies.

There are guidelines for those students who have genuine, unavoidable conflicts. Miss Gerken should receive a note explaining the problem at least one week prior to the performance. Each conflict will be considered individually. In compliance with school rules, if a student is absent from school the day of the performance, he/she is not allowed to attend the concert and will be excused. In the event of an emergency on the day of the concert, the parent should contact Miss Gerken as soon as possible and/or send in a note on the following school day. Any student who must miss a concert, for whatever reason, may be required to complete an alternative assignment. Students who follow this procedure, and whose absence is approved, will be excused from the event and their grade will not be jeopardized, provided they complete the alternative assignment. Most importantly, please plan ahead and communicate with Miss Gerken. More often than not, there are ways to work around the conflict.

Performing groups are the ultimate team sport because every member is essential to a quality performance. Thank you for your support and cooperation regarding concert attendance.

AS WOODY ALLEN ONCE SAID, “80% OF SUCCESS IS SHOWING UP!”

NEW HAMPSHIRE MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION (NHMEA) FESTIVALS

Solo and Ensemble Festival - 2/11/06

Students who are looking for a way to challenge themselves musically may participate in the Solo and Ensemble Festival. Students prepare a special piece of music and perform (by themselves or with their small ensemble) for an adjudicator. Students are evaluated on their performance and receive a short clinic by the adjudicator. They also receive written comments that they can keep. The purpose of this type of event is not only to provide students with a musical challenge but to offer them positive and constructive feedback that they can use to further their musical skills. This year's festival is February 11, 2006 at the University of New Hampshire.

South Central District Festival Honor Band - 5/6/06

This Honor Band is made up of exceptional musicians from across southern New Hampshire. Following auditions in November, Miss Gerken will nominate outstanding students from our band to participate in the NHMEA District Festival Honor Band. These students represent our instrumental program and Merrimack Middle School. The date of the festival is May 6, 2006.

NHMEA Large Group Festival - 3/18/06

This event is an opportunity for the entire middle school band to perform for state adjudicators. Like the Solo and Ensemble Festival, after their performance, students will receive written comments from the adjudicators. They also get a short clinic to address more specific ideas. This event does not rank bands in order of 1st place, 2nd, place, 3rd, place, etc. Rather, it evaluates each performing group individually. Bands receive an overall rating based upon their own performance. The dates of this year's festival are March 18, 24, and 25 - we will only perform one of those days. Our specific date will be announced as soon as we are scheduled.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CLASS

The instrumental music class is an opportunity for students to receive more individualized instruction. These classes are very important as they are geared toward the specific musical needs of individual students. The morning band rehearsals are very large classes, making it difficult to address these unique issues.

Instrumental music classes take place during the student's regular music class. (Each student will be scheduled for "Music" for one quarter sometime during the year.) Rather than going to music class, students in band will report to Miss Gerken. This format is beneficial as the classroom material that is discussed in the regular general music classes is generally very rudimentary, and it is not geared to students who have substantial musical experience.

CONCERT BAND GRADING SYSTEM - (Mind your P's and Q's!)

The model addressed below allows for great flexibility and ownership on the part of the student, so that it is within every student's ability to earn an A in band!

Participation = 20%

Students are expected to be at all rehearsals and participate in a cooperative and positive manner. Students are also expected to be on time to rehearsal and ready to play. Disruptive behavior and/or being unprepared will result in a lowered grade for the rehearsal. Disruptive behavior may also result in disciplinary action.

Practice = 20%

Students are expected to practice an average of 100 minutes per week. It is recommended that students practice 20 minutes, 5 nights a week.

Students must turn in a weekly signed practice card in order to receive credit for their practice time. Students may receive extra credit points by doing an extension project.

Performance = 20%

Students must attend all required concerts during the year. Any student who has an unexcused absence will receive no credit for this part of their grade. Students are also expected to arrive on time, have all necessary supplies, follow the concert dress code, behave appropriately, and stay through the entire concert. In addition to affecting his or her grade, misbehavior may result in school disciplinary action.

Quizzes = 20%

Each quarter, students will be assigned at least one playing quiz. Written quizzes may also be assigned, as well as regular supply/equipment checks. Playing quiz material may be pulled from current band literature, scales, or other developmentally appropriate material.

Quarterly Self-Evaluation = 20%

Near the end of each grading period, students will be asked to complete a personal self-evaluation. It will require students to reflect upon their efforts and achievements regarding participation, preparation, practice, performances, musical skills and musical goals.

Extensions (Extra Credit!)

Students may do one extension project per quarter. Extension points may be applied to Practice grade only. A limit of 100 points may be earned in Extensions each quarter. The appropriate Extension Form must be turned in with the project. The topic of your extension **MUST** be from the Extension Topics List. Otherwise it must be cleared with Miss Gerken ahead of time. Specific information is available in the music room.

Ways to get an A+ in band:

*ATTITUDE, ATTITUDE, ATTITUDE! Keep an open mind☺

*Practice your music at least 100 minutes per week.

*Be a thoughtful, critical listener.

*Set realistic goals for yourself and strive to reach them.

*Conduct yourself in a polite and respectful manner. Remember that band is the ultimate team sport!

*Be at every rehearsal and performance on time and with all appropriate materials.

*Offer your help and assistance with needed projects around the band room. There is always something that will need to be done!

JAZZ BAND GRADING SYSTEM

Participation = 25%

Students are expected to be at all rehearsals and participate in a cooperative and positive manner. Students are also expected to be on time to rehearsal and ready to play. Disruptive behavior and/or being unprepared will result in a lowered grade for the rehearsal. Disruptive behavior may also result in disciplinary action. Because we only have a limited number of rehearsals every quarter, it is extremely important that students do not intentionally skip any rehearsals. Doing so will have a pronounced impact on their grade and ultimately, they may be released from the group.

Preparation = 25%

Students are expected to come to rehearsals with all necessary supplies: instrument, folder/binder, pencil, and maintenance supplies (as outlined earlier in this handbook). Also, trumpet players must bring a straight, cup, and Harmon mute to every rehearsal.

Performance = 25%

Students must attend all required concerts during the year. Any student who has an unexcused absence will receive no credit for this part of their grade. Students are also expected to arrive on time, have all necessary supplies, follow the concert dress code, behave appropriately, and stay through the entire concert. In addition to affecting his or her grade, misbehavior may result in school disciplinary action.

Quizzes = 25%

Each quarter, students will be assigned at least one playing quiz. Written quizzes may also be assigned. Playing quiz material may be pulled from current band literature, scales, or other developmentally appropriate material.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CLASS GRADING SYSTEM

In instrumental music class, students will be graded daily based upon their effort and participation. Because students are already expected to practice for concert band, there will be no formal percentage of this grade based on practice time. However, they may be asked to practice different material and they will be expected to come to class with that music prepared (as if completing assigned homework for another class). Written homework may be assigned, also. Final grades will be figured by averaging daily participation grades with homework grades.

A FINAL WORD ABOUT GRADING

Because music is a basic human need and essential to the development of the well-rounded individual, we take its pursuit and study very seriously. Although grading policies are needed to set standards for student learning and achievement, it is unfortunate that they are called for at all. Above all else, music should be a source of enjoyment and inspiration. If you, along with your student take your involvement in this band program seriously, the fun will happen naturally and good grades in band will occur without difficulty.

It is highly encouraged that students take full advantage of the extra credit points that are available through the Extension projects. There is not always enough time in class to touch on the vastness of music. These projects are a wonderful way for students to further investigate topics of their own interest that cannot be covered in class.

"Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education." – Plato

Merrimack Middle School Band

Concert Schedule

Please note -

This is NOT a complete/final list! Miss Gerken is still trying to locate certain pieces of information and will get dates to you as soon as she can!

Boxed events are mandatory!

Monday, Sept. 19 – 1st Full Band rehearsal, 7:00-7:40

Friday, Oct. 7 – Football Game at MHS

Arrival Time – 5:00 pm; game at 7:00 pm

November 14-18 – District Festival Auditions, MMS Bandroom, students will sign up for times

Wednesday, Dec. 7 – Winter Concert, MMS, 6:30, arrival time 5:45

Snow Date – April 13

Saturday, February 11 – Solo/Ensemble Festival, times and location TBA

Tuesday, March 14 – Celebration of Song, MHS, 7:00

Snow Date – March 15

March 18 – NHMEA Large Group Festival, details TBA

Wednesday, April 12 – Cavalcade of Bands, MHS, 7:00, arrival time 6:15

Snow Date – April 13

Saturday, May 6 – Middle School Festival, times and location TBA

Wednesday, June 7 – Grand Finale Concert, MMS, 6:30, arrival time 5:45

Thursday, June 8 – Music Awards Night, MMS, 7:00

"He who sings scares away his woes." – Cervantes

Statement of Consent

This form must be signed and returned to Miss Gerken by Monday, Oct. 3rd

Please initial each line.

Student

Parent

_____	_____	I realize that band is a choice. I also realize that I should do everything I can to be here on time and ready to play. However, conflicts may arise from time to time. When they occur, I agree to explore options and pursue all other possibilities (such as carpooling) for transportation. Most importantly, I will communicate with Miss Gerken and let her know in advance when I have a conflict.
_____	_____	I understand that all boxed concerts on the calendar are mandatory and that no credit will be awarded for unexcused absences. In addition, a pattern of unexcused absences may jeopardize participation in band.
_____	_____	I understand the MMS does not offer band on a "trial" basis. By signing this form, I am agreeing to a full-year commitment.
_____	_____	I understand that one of the most important contributions I can make to the band is being a cooperative and positive member. I will take this expectation very seriously.
_____	_____	I have read this Handbook in its entirety and am aware of the policies and procedures of the MMS Instrumental Music Program. I am also aware of the required supplies and book.

Student's Name (Printed)

Parent's Name (Printed)

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

Date

Photography

Throughout the year, the music department takes pictures of students for press releases, newsletters, etc. It is your choice whether or not you would like your child photographed. Your choice will have no impact on your child's grade or participation in band.

Please check one of the following:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I grant consent for my child to be photographed, understanding that photographs are used only for public relations purposes. | With Name | Without Name |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I do not give consent for my child to be photographed. | | |

Merrimack Middle School Band
Required Supplies - Order Form
Orders are Due: Monday, Oct. 3rd!

(All prices are based on our purchase cost from Ted Herbert's Music in Manchester. Please feel free to purchase your supplies at the music store of your choice!)

Name _____ Locker # _____ Instrument _____

Flip Folders/Lyers:

- _____ Flip Folder @ \$4.50
- _____ Flutists Friend - Lyre and Folder Combo @ \$10.00
- _____ Trombonist's Friend - Lyre and Folder combo @ \$10.00
- _____ Sax Lyre @ \$4.00
- _____ Clarinet Lyre @ \$4.00
- _____ Yamaha Clarinet Lyre - FOR YAMAHA CLARINETS! @ \$5.00
- _____ Trumpet Lyre @ \$5.00
- _____ French Horn @ 6.00 (also works for trumpets who don't have a 3rd finger (LEFT HAND) slide ring)
- _____ Low Brass and Woodwind Lyre @ \$6.00 - Your Instrument: _____
- (Percussionists need flip folder only)
- _____ Lyre Screw \$2.00 (if you have a lyre holder on your instrument - check to see if the screw is still with it!)

Books:

- _____ Winds @ 5.00 Your Instrument: _____
- _____ Percussion @ 9.00

Misc. items available at MMS:

(Students should always have at least 2 GOOD reeds at all times. Valve/Slide oil and Cork Grease at all times.)

Cork Grease \$1.00	Clarinet Reeds @ 1.25	Tenor Sax Reeds \$2.00
Valve Oil \$2.00	Bass Clarinet Reeds \$2.00	Bari Sax Reeds \$2.75
Slide Oil \$2.00	Alto Sax Reeds \$1.75	

Total: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to "Merrimack Middle School"