

Thomas Middle School Band Handbook



2012-2013

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome! We are very excited you have chosen to be a part of the Thomas Middle School Band program this year!

Please take some time to read through the band handbook. In it you will find what is expected of each member of the band. If any problem should arise or you have any questions on grading, this should be your first reference. If you still cannot find the answer, please do not hesitate to contact me.

At Thomas Middle School, we have very high expectations for the band students. I will challenge every student to succeed musically while also helping them refine the life skills they need to have a successful future, no matter what career path they one day choose. In order to help them reach the highest of these potentials, they have to show respect to their director, their fellow musicians and classmates, the band room, and their instruments. Furthermore, they need to be willing to put their best effort into their music and the program. Nothing less will be accepted.

As the students work hard, follow the rules of the handbook, and progress, they will obtain an experience that no other organization can provide. In band, your child will gain a sense of community, a sense of pride and accomplishment, a sense of fulfillment, and most importantly have a tremendous amount of fun!!

I cannot wait to meet your child and share the world of music with them! I look forward to what I know will be an incredible year!

**Sincerely,
Ari Rooker
Director of Bands
Holdenville Public Schools
arooker@holdenville.k12.ok.us
(405) 924-0907**

BAND MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to ensure great musical successes while still providing the tools the students need to succeed as mature adults. The Thomas Middle School Band Program will provide an atmosphere that gives students the opportunity to obtain a strong fundamental background in music theory and technique on their instrument, so that they may be a successful musician both individually and in an ensemble setting. It is through the dedication and hard work to get there that students will learn important life skills such as discipline, organizational and time management skills, loyalty, and leadership.

ORGANIZATIONS

7th Grade Band: The seventh grade band will be comprised of all seventh grade students enrolled in band. They should be in their third year of band at this point. The expectations of the students will be very high as they will be introduced to more challenging musical concepts and techniques in order to prepare them to enter into the high school band the following year. Performances will include a halftime performance at one of the middle school football games with the high school, a Christmas and Spring concert, and a trip to the Arbuckle Wilderness Contest.

6th Grade Band: The sixth grade band will be comprised of all sixth grade students enrolled in band. They should be in their second year of band at this point. We will review and build upon musical concepts taught in the beginning band to get them ready for seventh grade band. Their performances will include a Christmas and Spring concert as well as a trip to the Arbuckle Wilderness Contest. They will combine with the seventh grade band for the Arbuckle Wilderness Contest.

5th Grade Band: The fifth grade band will be comprised of all fifth grade students enrolled in band. This will most likely be their first experience playing an instrument. Because this is so, we will have a Petting Zoo the second full week of school that allows the students to decide which instruments they might have an interest

in. Their performances will include a Christmas and Spring concert. The Christmas and Spring concerts will be a production of all the ensembles in the middle school and high school to get them exposure to more mature ensembles.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND RULES

- 1. All rehearsals and performances of any kind are mandatory!** Most rehearsals will be during class time but any rehearsals, clinics, or performances not during class time will be planned months in advance. Because of this, there is no excuse to miss any of these events.
- 2. Be on time!** This includes all classes, rehearsals, performances, and clinics. For class, students should be in their seat and ready to play their instrument when the bell rings.
- 3. Be prepared.** Students should make sure they have everything they need for class. This includes all instruments, reeds, mouthpieces, method books, music and pencils for every rehearsal.
- 4. Be respectful to yourself, other students, teachers, and your school.** Present yourself in a positive attitude for band. Be courteous and speak to students/teachers in a respectful manner. Take care of the band room and the school. This means leaving everything cleaner than when you arrived.
- 5. NO food or drinks permitted in the band room at any time.** I am aware that the band room at the middle school is also the stage of the cafeteria but during band all food and drinks will be put away. Consuming food and drinks directly before playing can ruin your instrument.
- 6. Give your best effort!** Everything does not come easy. Students will have to approach band with a positive attitude and be patient in the learning process. What matters is that students are trying their best. If so, they will progress and be successful. Failure to do so can result in the student being let go from the program.
- 7. All school handbook policies will be followed and enforced in the band room.** As a proud organization of Thomas Middle School, we abide by all of the rules set by the school handbook.

INSTRUMENT PLACEMENT

The director must approve all instrument placements. We will have a Petting Zoo to see which instruments interest and are best for the beginning band students. We try to put students on the instruments they desire to play but we also have to consider what they will be most successful with. Students and parents will also be able to find out rental information on instruments or school policy on checking out instruments. **Please DO NOT purchase any instruments without approval from the director first!** Students and parents often find cheap instruments and buy them to save money. Often these instruments will soon break, fall apart, or are not capable of producing a good sound. All students will receive a list of instruments that are of the best/better quality. The director must approve any instrument changes in the sixth and seventh grade bands.

CONCERT ETTIQUETTE

All concerts are mandatory! Students will always be asked to show up early for a short rehearsal before the concert. Students must be on time for all of these rehearsals, which means they should show up at least five minutes earlier than the call time they have been given. Roll will be taken when the dress rehearsal begins. Students should also make sure they are prepared with all materials they need for the concert. Failure to arrive on time or to bring all of their materials will result in points deducted from their overall concert grade. During the concert, students must make sure they are respectful to others performing. No talking should be done while on stage. All ensembles will be expected to stay for the entire concert to show respect and support to all of the ensembles in the music program.

CONCERT DRESS

Concert Dress for all Thomas Middle School band students will be khaki pants (not shorts) and the band t-shirt. We will be getting

these shirts shortly after school starts. These shirts will cost under \$10. Every student will need to purchase a shirt. Shoes should be closed-toed.

GRADING POLICY

A (90-100) B (80-89) C (70-79) D (60-69) F (0-59)

1. Individual Performances 40%

a) Individual Playing Tests 20%

Students will periodically be given playing tests. These tests will measure the student's ability, their effort and preparation time, and their understanding of the musical concepts introduced during class.

b) Rehearsal Etiquette 20%

Students are expected to be prepared for rehearsal musically and must also use correct ensemble behavior for each rehearsal.

2. Group Performances 35%

a) All Public Performances

Students are required to be at every performance with the band including all concerts, clinics, and contests. Students are given notice of all events well in advance and should make sure that they are always on time and prepared for each event. Being prepared at each event means having all music fully prepared, being appropriately dressed, and using appropriate concert etiquette.

3. Summative Assessment 15%

a) 1st/3rd Quarter Exams 5%

Students will be given a written exam over musical concepts introduced during that quarter. Reviews will be given before each test so that students have time to prepare.

b) End of Semester Exams 10%

Students will be given a written exam introduced musical concepts throughout the entire semester. Reviews will also be given before each of these tests in class so that students have adequate time to prepare.

4. Daily Points 10%

These points are given to students everyday for attendance, showing up on time (which means showing up early), being ready to rehearse with instruments out and warmed up, and having all music and materials needed for that particular rehearsal.

5. Additional Opportunities

Students will have the opportunity to participate in regional/state solo and ensemble contests. These events help students grow both musically and academically, which is why students will receive extra credit just for auditioning for participating in the solo/ensemble contests. Students will receive more extra credit points if they receive a superior rating at solo/ensemble contest.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Taking private lessons sets the good musicians apart from the great musicians. Often one will find that great bands are made up of great players that take lessons and strive by taking opportunities like participating in solo/ensemble contest. From personal experience, I can testify that tremendous strides are made from taking private lessons as both a musician and as a disciplined, mature student. Although taking private lessons and auditioning for honor bands are not required, they are strongly suggested and will be noted as students become eligible to audition for leadership positions. A list of lesson teachers will be provided to the students at the beginning of the school year.

INSTRUMENT SUPPLIES

Students will need things such as reeds and valve oil throughout the year. There are two ways to purchase these items. The students can purchase them from Ada Music Store on their own or they can purchase the items as they need them from me. We will have these items stocked. It will be \$2 for valve oil and \$3 for reeds. Students will be required to

obtain their own method book as well. The Essential Elements method book is included in the price of new instruments at the Ada Music Store. If students need to purchase the book separately, it will be approximately \$9.75.

CONFLICTS WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES

Students should do their very best to be at all band rehearsals and performances, as students should feel a sense of loyalty to the band. However, conflicts with other activities are sure to happen. The key to avoiding any confusion and to keeping a good repore with the band is communication! Please let Ms. Rooker know of any conflicts immediately after they have been realized. Failure to do so can result in the lowering of a student's grade. It will then be up to Ms. Rooker to find a solution to the problem, not the student.

Student/Parent or Guardian Information Sheet

Student's Name: _____ M/F: ____ Birth Date: _____

Student's Email: _____ Student's Phone #: _____

List Any Additional Extracurricular Activities: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____ Relationship: _____

Parent's Email: _____ Home #: _____

Phone #(Best Way to Reach You): _____ Work or Cell (circle one)

Second Phone #: _____ Work or Cell (circle one)

Please List the Best Times to Call You: _____

Second Contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Third Contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Handbook Agreement

I have received a copy of the Thomas Middle School Handbook. I have read and reviewed all of the band policies. I understand the expectations that are to be upheld by the band students and will encourage my child to abide by the rules set in place and to fulfill their obligations to the band.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

I have received a copy of the Thomas Middle School Handbook. I have read and reviewed all of the band policies and I understand that it is a privilege to be a part of this program. I know that by signing this form I have agreed to uphold these policies and have accepted the responsibility to attend all performances and activities in which the band participates. I recognize that each member of the band contributes greatly to the success of the program.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date