

Taylor County Middle School

Band Handbook

2018-2019



Mrs. Elisa McManus, Director of Bands

Ms. Kiki Puhl, Principal

Ms. Alicia Beshears, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Kasey Roberts, Assistant Principal

Table of Contents

About the Taylor County Middle School Band.....	1
Letter to Parents and Students.....	2
Course Offerings.....	3
Materials needed for class.....	3
Class rules and procedures.....	4, 5
Grading and assessment.....	6
Practicing.....	7
Concerts and performances.....	8
Uniform requirements.....	8
Instrument care.....	9
Instrument storage.....	9
Use of School Instruments.....	9
Fundraising.....	10
Private Lessons.....	10
Individual performance opportunity.....	10
How to contact Mrs. McManus.....	10
✓ Playing test rubric	
✓ TCMS Band Information Sheet	
✓ Parent/Student Agreement	

About the Taylor County Middle School Band

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Taylor County Middle School Band is to provide students with musical opportunities and experiences, which will enhance their life and education. Students will leave the band program as competent musicians who will be able to use their skills outside of the TCMS band room. Hard work, respect, and discipline provide a solid foundation for musical growth and achievement.

Learning Environment

The Taylor County Middle School Band is a community of students who learn in a supportive and positive environment. Members of the TCMS Band take pride in themselves, their school, and the band program. Students use every opportunity to be a role model for other students in the school. Students who wish to participate in the band program must demonstrate responsibility for their behavior.

August 13, 2018

Dear Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Taylor County Middle School Band program! This handbook has been written to familiarize you with many aspects of the program, and to ensure an enjoyable and educationally rewarding musical experience. **Please take the time to read the handbook as it explains many aspects of grading and attendance policies and other important information for everyone.** Once you have read the handbook in its entirety, please fill out the information sheet and return it to Mrs. McManus as soon as possible. **Band students will be held accountable for the information contained in this handbook, so please keep the handbook for future reference.**

Band is an *ELECTIVE* and *SELECTIVE* course. It differs from a general music class in that we seek to develop greater proficiency over a longer period of time. It involves learning math concepts and applying them (rhythm); learning and applying a new system of notation; developing fine motor skills; developing the ability to listen critically, and become sensitive to the sounds we make, to the conductor, to the sounds others make, and to the demands of the music. It requires cooperation with a conductor and a large team of musicians working together toward a common goal. It requires practice at home, occasional after school rehearsals and performances, and an investment in, and proper maintenance of, an instrument. Band involves responsibility to the group. The sound each person produces changes the sound of the entire group.

Most students possess the musical and mental skills necessary to be good musicians. Success is the result, if the student has the desire to learn to play; the parents and students understand what is required for success; and the parents share responsibility for the music education of their child. I hope that this handbook will be a guide that will lead you and your child to a successful experience in band. I sincerely hope your band experience will be a rewarding and exciting one!

Sincerely,

Elisa McManus, Director of Bands
Taylor County Middle School
601 E. Lafayette St.
Perry, Fl 32347
(850) 838-2516

Elizabeth.mcmanus@taylor@k12.fl.us

Course Offerings

Beginning Band (6th Grade)

This class is intended for students with little or no musical ensemble playing experience. Students in this class will learn proper maintenance and assembly of instruments, tone production, music reading and notation, ear training, and basic technique and ensemble playing skills. This ensemble performs beginning literature at some concerts throughout the year. Each student will have exposure to the national and state music standards.

Football/Concert Band (7th / 8th Grade)

This band is comprised of 7th/8th grade students with previous musical ensemble playing experience. Students in this class will continue to work on fundamental ensemble playing skills and techniques. This ensemble performs at TCMS football games in the fall and continues into the rest of the school year. The concert band performs challenging literature at a Music Performance Assessment (MPA) in the Spring. Students are encouraged to participate in the Florida Bandmasters Association Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment. Each student will have exposure to the national and state music standards.

Materials needed for class

All students need the following materials for band class each day:

- Agenda book or planner
- Band three-ring binder with plastic page protectors
- Notebook paper
- Pencil ONLY
- Instrument and supplies
- Method book
- All music and hand-outs used in class

Class/Rehearsal Rules and Procedures

In addition to the Taylor county schools Code of Conduct and all school rules, there are additional expectations for participation in all band classes.

Band Students must adhere to the following rules:

- 1. Be respectful of others.** Students need to make good choices in their everyday behavior in class. Students are expected to be supportive of each other and work together as a team.
- 2. Raise your hand before speaking and remain seated.** Student questions and comments are a vital part of the class, but cannot be heard if everyone speaks at once. Raise your hand and wait until your name is called before speaking. Student socializing needs to take place outside of rehearsal. Students need to remain seated and ask for permission to get out of their chair for any reason.
- 3. Be respectful of equipment.** Students need to make sure their instrument is placed in their locker at the end of each class and that they have picked up all belongings before leaving. Students must NEVER touch band equipment without permission from the director. Do not touch any equipment that does not belong to you. **Only percussionists may use percussion equipment.**
- 4. No food/drink allowed in the band room.** Students may NOT bring any type of food, gum, candy, or drinks (other than water) into the band room.
- 5. Be on time and prepared for class.** Students will enter the room quietly and be ready with their instrument, music and/or method book, agenda book, and pencil.

Students will enter the band room quietly and will have two minutes to take out required materials for class. Any student that is not seated when the director is ready to begin will be marked tardy. Students will be able to ask questions after announcements and should follow directions and remain on task during class. Students will be dismissed by Mrs. McManus and will have time to pack up their belongings and return to their seat before the end of class.

Class/Rehearsal Rules and Procedures – cont'd

The following consequences are in effect if a student does not follow directions:

- 1st offense: Verbal correction/warning**
- 2nd offense: Conference with student/removal of privileges**
- 3rd offense: Parent contact, lunch detention**
- 4th offense: Discipline Referral**

****IMMEDIATE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN FOR SERIOUS OFFENSES****

Students will NOT receive a warning for the following:

- 1. Eating, drinking or chewing gum in the band room**
- 2. Disrespect**
- 3. Leaving instruments out in the band room**
- 4. Not bringing materials to class (instrument, pencil, music, etc.)**

Grading and Assessment

- Performance – 300 point
- Playing Assessments – 100 points
- Written Assignments – 100 points
- Daily Grade – 25 points weekly
- Practice Logs—25 points weekly

Performance

- *Concert, FB game, Parade, and FBA MPA Performances – 300 points EACH*

Attendance at concerts is **MANDATORY** and will only be excused in the case of an emergency, with notification to the director. **Two weeks' notice (in writing from a parent) is required if a student must miss a performance. Lack of notice for a non-emergency will result in a zero.**

Playing Assessments

- *Playing Tests – 100 points each*

Students will have playing tests on scales and music covered in class (called “pass-offs” in beginning band). If the student is not happy with the first score, the playing test can be retaken *before or after* school. The test can be retaken as many times as the student wishes until the desired grade is earned. This is so the student can continually practice and make different aspects better. These tests will be used to place students in chairs in the upper bands.

Written Assessment

- *Written Quiz – 100 points*

Practice Logs

- *Weekly Logs—25 points per week* Students pick up logs on Thursday, record their assignments and time practiced, and return the following Thursday, when they pick up a new one. **Must have a parent signature. 10 minutes of practice 5 days per week is expected. 5 days=100%, 4 days=80%, 3 days=60%, 2 days=40%, 1 days=20%.**

Daily Grade

- *Daily Grade – 5 points per day, 25 per week*

Students will get 5 daily performance points for being in class with their instrument/supplies, method book/music, and pencil, and being present at all full band rehearsals. Students lose points if they come to class without required materials or miss rehearsals. If students miss more than 8 full-band rehearsals, they may be asked to not perform at concerts and will lose points for their absence.

Grading Scale

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 59 and below

Page 7

Practicing

Daily practice (average 30 minutes a day) is essential to a student's success in band. A student who does not practice will not learn his or her scales or music, and thereby will not progress on his or her instrument and will be doing a disservice both to him or herself and the band program (because the band is a team!). However, the students who put in time and effort to practicing will get a rich musical experience and enjoy coming to rehearsals every day. It will be evident during class who has and has not practiced. If a student is ever struggling with practicing, he or she is welcome to set a time with Mrs. McManus to come in before or after school to get help.

Parents, here are some tips to help your child practice:

- Set a consistent time and a **quiet**, distraction-free place for the student to practice.
- Listen to your child practice at least once per week and be sure to provide help and encouragement.
- Encourage your child to perform for family and friends, and invite your child's friends over to practice together!
- Offer compliments and encouragement often!
- Expose your child to a wide variety of music, including recordings, concerts, recitals, etc.
- Encourage your child to talk to you about their lessons and practice.

Concerts and Performances

All Taylor Count Middle School Bands perform actively! It is extremely important that students be on their best behavior in public.

All school rules apply at performances, as well as the following band rules:

- **There is no talking on stage at a concert.**
- **While in the audience, be silent and listen to the group that is performing.**

Remember, as a band member, you are representing yourself, your school, and your community!

TCMS Band members are leaders and set good examples for others!

Concerts and performances are a required part of the band curriculum and cannot be made up with any other activity. Students are graded for concert participation.

Uniforms

For football and non-concert performances:

The band uniform is a **TCMS Band T-Shirt**, jeans (may be full length, capris, or shorts that reach to the knees), and tennis shoes. Students can order the band shirt through *Mrs. McManus*.

For concert performances (MPA, School Concerts):

Concert attire for 7th/8th grade is a **Blue Band Polo**, Black Slacks with a black belt, Black Sock and Black CLOSED toed shoes. 6th grade will wear the same, except they will wear a **White Band Polo**. This is a requirement for **all** band members. Girls may not wear heels. The polo must be tucked in at all times. Polos may be ordered through *Mrs. McManus*.

Instrument Care

Here are some important guidelines to follow when caring for your instrument in addition to those guidelines taught in class:

- As good as their intentions are, do not allow a sibling or other relative or friend to try to play the instrument, as this can lead to costly damage.
- Never leave an instrument that is not being played outside of its case for extended periods of time, i.e. more than 10-25 minutes.
- If anything on the instrument is damaged or not functioning properly, please DO NOT try to repair it yourself! Please bring the instrument to *Mrs. McManus* to repair it.

Instrument Storage

All students will be assigned a locker to store their instrument. Students are expected to follow these instrument-storage guidelines:

1. All instrument cases **must** have a sticker or tag with their name on it at all times.
2. Students **must** put their instrument away at the end of each class and students are not allowed in a room or closet where their instrument is not stored.
3. It is the students' responsibility to secure their instrument/case at all times when it is not being used or played in class or during a performance.
4. **Personal** instruments are not allowed to be left in lockers over the summer.
5. **Lockers are for instruments ONLY.**

Use of School Instruments

There are a limited number of school instruments for students to use during the school year. Students who use them must provide their own mouthpiece, reeds, valve oil, and any other necessary materials. A contract must be filled out and returned before a student is allowed to use a school instrument. This contract will be given to the appropriate students, and must be returned promptly. There is a yearly rental fee of \$40 due Sept. 1st that goes towards the instrument's maintenance upon return. Any damages caused to the instrument will be charged to the family.

Fundraising

Taylor County Middle School Band members are expected to participate in fundraisers during the year. Fundraisers pay for most of the equipment and supplies that are used by students. When our fundraisers are successful, the band as a whole benefits greatly. If everyone pitches in, our fundraisers will be very successful.

Private Lessons

Private instruction provides students valuable one-on-one time with a teacher to help with rapid growth and development. Private lessons are strongly encouraged! If interested, ask *Mrs. McManus* and she will give you teachers' names and contact information.

Individual Performance Opportunities

All-State Band

Students in 7th and 8th grade may audition for this in September. This takes months of preparation. Students who are selected for this high honor travel to Tampa in January to participate and perform.

All-District Band

This is open to all 7th and 8th grade students. The audition materials will be available from *Mrs. McManus* in August. Students are selected from 9 counties in the Big Bend area and represent the best musicians of the district. Students perform in January in Tallahassee.

Florida Bandmasters Association Solo and Ensemble Performance Assessment

This is open to all band students. Students perform solos or small ensemble music for FBA judges and receive a rating for their performance. This is **not** a requirement but is *highly* encouraged. Music can be received from *Mrs. McManus*. Students must demonstrate that they are prepared to play their music in order to perform at FBA Solo and Ensemble MPA in February.

How to Contact Mrs. McManus

Mrs. McManus has office hours every day at TCMS. Please call the front office at (850) 838-2516 to leave a message or to find out when she is able to speak with you. You may also reach her at: Elizabeth.McManus@taylor.k12.fl.us

Taylor County Middle School Band

Playing Test Evaluation: **Brass/Woodwinds**

Name: _____

Date: _____

Material: _____

	A (Excellent)	B (Good)	C (Average)	D (Marginal)	F (unsatisfactory)
Posture	5	4	3	2	1
	Plays with good posture all of the time.	Plays with good posture most of the time. Minor problems.	Plays with good posture some of the time but has some habits that are hindering performance.	Plays with poor posture most of the time.	Does not make an effort to play with proper posture.
Tone	5	4	3	2	1
	Plays with a good characteristic tone, consistent and focused.	Plays with good tone; occasional loss of focus or airy tone.	Is developing tone quality, sometimes focused.	Uncharacteristic tone, harsh, unfocused, and/or airy	No ability to produce a consistent tone
Rhythm	5	4	3	2	1
	Accurate placement of rhythms and note values.	Plays with slight rhythmic or tempo discrepancies.	Plays with unsteady tempo and/or has a few rhythmic errors.	Tempo is not steady and/or rhythms are only sometimes accurate.	No sense of steady time evident and/or rhythms are completely inaccurate.
Notes	5	4	3	2	1
	Plays all correct notes.	Misses 1-2 notes	Misses 3-4 notes	Misses 5-6 notes	Misses more than 6 notes.
Articulation	5	4	3	2	1
	Plays marked articulation all the time. Uses the tongue correctly.	Plays most of the marked articulations correctly. Occasional problems with the tongue.	Plays many of the marked articulation correctly but is inconsistent with the tongue.	Plays only some articulations as marked; only slightly using the tongue correctly.	Does not play marked articulations correctly; not using the tongue correctly.

Taylor County Middle School Band
 Playing Test Evaluation: *Percussion*

Name: _____

Date: _____

Material: _____

	A (Excellent)	B (Good)	C (Average)	D (Marginal)	F (unsatisfactory)
Posture	5	4	3	2	1
	Plays with good posture all of the time.	Plays with good posture most of the time. Minor problems.	Plays with good posture some of the time but has some habits that are hindering performance.	Plays with poor posture most of the time.	Does not make an effort to play with proper posture.
Rhythm/Tempo	5	4	3	2	1
	Accurate placement of rhythms and note values. Steady tempo throughout	Plays with slight rhythmic or tempo discrepancies.	Plays with unsteady tempo and/or has a few rhythmic errors.	Tempo is not steady and/or rhythms are only sometimes accurate.	No sense of steady time evident and/or rhythms are completely inaccurate.
Tone	5	4	3	2	1
	Plays with a good characteristic tone; strikes the instrument consistently.	Plays with good tone; strikes the instrument inconsistently.	Is developing tone quality, inconsistent sound; sometimes strikes the instrument incorrectly.	Uncharacteristic tone, harsh, loud, inconsistent sound, strikes the instrument incorrectly.	Does not attempt to produce a characteristic sound on the instrument. Strikes the instrument incorrectly.
Notes (bells)	5	4	3	2	1
	Plays all correct notes.	Misses 1-2 notes	Misses 3-4 notes	Misses 5-6 notes	Misses more than 6 notes.
Sticking (Snare)	5	4	3	2	1
	Plays marked articulations all the time. Uses the hands as marked correctly.	Plays most of the marked articulations correctly. Occasional problems with sticking.	Plays many of the marked articulations correctly but is inconsistent with the sticking marked.	Plays only some articulations as marked; only slightly using the marked sticking.	Does not play marked articulations correctly; not using the marked sticking at all.

Taylor County Middle School Band Member Information

Please fill out the information section below. This information will allow Mrs. McManus to keep in touch with you for upcoming Taylor County Middle School Band events.

_____	_____	_____
Student First Name	Student Last Name	Grade
_____	_____	_____
Phone #	Street Address	Zip Code
_____	_____	_____
Dad/Guardian First Name	Dad/Guardian Last Name	Work Phone
_____	_____	_____
Mom/Guardian First Name	Mom/Guardian Last Name	Work Phone

Email addresses that are checked regularly are preferred so that you may be sent important band information through email, Mrs. McManus's main line of communication.

_____	_____
Dad/Guardian Email Address	Mom/Guardian Email Address

___ Yes! Sign me up for Remind 101, a free and secure texting service where I will get reminders about events for my child in band.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

OR **6th Grade Parents** may text the message **@ha7b3** to the phone number 81010

And **7th/8th Grade Parents** may text the message **@kecg2** to the number 81010

Check box if you would like to be contacted for any chaperoning.

Keep up with the band on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/TCMSBand/>

Student's Full Name (please print)

Parent Agreement

I, the undersigned, have read and reviewed the Taylor County Middle School Band Handbook. I agree to do everything I can to be sure that my child follows the rules set forth in this handbook. Furthermore, I acknowledge that should my child fail to follow the rules set forth, he or she will receive grade penalties and could possibly be removed from the Taylor County Middle School Band program.

Parent Signature

Parent Signature

Date

Date

Student Agreement

I, the undersigned, have read and reviewed the Taylor County Middle School Band Handbook. I agree to abide by all the rules set forth in this handbook. Furthermore, I acknowledge that should I fail to follow the rules set forth, I will receive grade penalties and could possibly be removed from the Taylor County Middle School Band program.

Student Signature

Date

If there is other important information that Mrs. McManus should know about (medical conditions, etc.) please list them below.

Perseverance

Respect



Intellect



Determination

Excellence

