



# **Huntingdon Middle School**

**Band Handbook**

**2017-2018**

**Mr. Joe Davis**

**Band Director**

## **Band Students and Parents:**

Welcome to the Huntingdon Middle School band program. The upcoming school year is going to be filled with much excitement and growth. It will be a pleasure working with the students of Huntingdon Middle School, providing them with tools and experiences that will lay the foundation for success on their instruments. I am excited to be the second year as band director at HMS!

I want you to have the best music experience possible. I am committed to giving my best effort to prepare you to succeed. In return, I ask for a commitment to give your best effort to the band program. Unlike athletic teams, we have no bench-warmers. Everyone in band is a starter. Your effort, good or bad, will not only affect you, but it will also affect the band as a whole.

To ensure that everyone has a memorable, positive experience in the HMS band program, it is important that everyone reads the handbook. Not only are policies and procedures outlined, but the handbook provides information on special opportunities for the students. It is your responsibility to carefully read the handbook in its entirety. If anything in the handbook changes throughout the year, an update will be emailed to all band parents and students. The standards outlined in this handbook are in place so that each student can rehearse and perform in an environment that is conducive to success and positive educational experiences.

Students and parents, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the band handbook. This handbook is designed to answer any questions you might have concerning the program. Please read all of the information and sign the form in the back of the book. I am honored to be your band director and am looking forward to a great year!!

Mr. Davis,  
Band Director  
Huntingdon Middle School

# STUDENT HANDBOOK

2017-2018

## PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

### *5th Grade Beginning Band*

The 5th Grade Beginning Band is a full year class and is open to students in the fifth grade who have had little or no experience in instrumental music. All students will choose an instrument with the aid of the director. Basic concepts such as proper embouchure, hand position, posture, listening skills, and breathing skills will be emphasized. Weekly practice is expected. Membership is at the discretion of the director and school administration.

### *6th Grade Beginning Band*

The 6th Grade Beginning Band is a full year class and is open to students in the sixth grade who have had little or no experience in instrumental music. All students will choose an instrument with the aid of the director. Basic concepts such as proper embouchure, hand position, posture, listening skills, and breathing skills will be emphasized. Weekly practice is expected. Membership is at the discretion of the director and school administration.

### *7th and 8th Grade Concert Band*

The 7th and 8th Grade Concert Band is a full year class and is open to students in the 7th and 8th grade that have had at least one year of previous instruction on wind and/or percussion instruments. It consists of traditional band instrumentation and provides reinforcement in basic instrumental skills such as proper embouchure, hand position, posture, listening and breathing skills, as well as an emphasis on the fundamental concepts of rhythm, tone production, ensemble balance and blend, and overall ensemble sonority. The Concert Band is divided by grade level into two separate classes, but performs as one ensemble during performances. The 7th and 8th Grade classes meet every school day and perform several concerts each year. Weekly practice is expected. Private study is encouraged to help students progress to the next level. Membership is at the discretion of the director and school administration.

## OTHER PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

### *Honor Bands*

Honor bands are a great opportunity for band students. Typically students apply or audition to get into an honor band and are chosen based on the director's recommendations and how well they play. The honor band itself is made up of the best band students, and so, the honor bands often play challenging music. The students have a guest conductor who is most often a "top notch" high school or college band director. Honor bands for middle school are typically one or two days long. The students perform a concert at the end of the honor band festival. The whole honor band experience is an awesome opportunity that will challenge and motivate your students. This will not only teach them musical skills, but it will show them that they are capable of whatever they set their mind to.

### *Solo & Ensemble Festivals*

A Solo & Ensemble Festival is an event where students prepare a solo piece, a duet, or perform in a small group for a judge. The students will receive valuable feedback on their performance and will receive a rating. Students who obtain a high rating will receive a medal.

## PRIVATE LESSONS

As one might expect, private lessons on a musical instrument are the best way to improve performance skills. The one-on-one approach allows the student to benefit from the individual attention as opposed to a teacher monitoring a class of over fifty. Students will receive

instruction to develop a more professional tone on the instrument, reinforce the fundamentals of their instrument with better technique, and will be provided a set of goals to help the student excel on their instrument.

### *UTM Community Music Academy*

We are lucky to have highly qualified musicians down the road at the University of Tennessee at Martin! The UTM Community Music Academy offers quality, affordable music lessons. Below is a link to their website, where you can enroll in private lessons online. If you need additional information on enrolling in the UTM Community Music Academy, please ask Mr. Davis.

<http://www.utm.edu/departments/communitymusic/>

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## CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

### Classroom Expectations

1. Enter the band room quietly and be in your seat no later than 2 minutes after the tardy bell rings.
  2. Have all band materials at your seat including your instrument, pencil, music book, and music folder.
  3. Listen to Mr. Davis, Mr. Martin, or any other teacher who is speaking.
  4. Play your instrument at the right time.
  5. Be respectful when listening to other people's performances.
  6. Leave all food, candy, gum, and drinks (except water) outside of the band room.
  7. Keep your hands off of instruments or other objects that do not belong to you or that you do not have permission to touch.
  8. Horseplay (running, hitting, and other inappropriate behavior) is not allowed in the band room.
  9. Raise your hand in order to speak or leave your seat.
  10. Clean up your area at the end of each rehearsal.
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## GRADING POLICY

### *Playing Tests (25%)*

Students will be required to play assigned lines in their method book, concert music, solo etudes, and scales. Test dates will be posted at least a week in advance. A rubric will be provided.

### *Participation (25%)*

Students will receive a daily participation grade each week. If a student refuses to participate 100% in daily objectives, he or she will receive a reduction in grade for that week. This grade includes band activity outside of the school day, including after school rehearsals.

### *Performances (25%)*

Performing is very crucial to completing the band experience. Students will be showing all their new skills to their parents, friends, and teachers in a group setting. It is also a way for the band director to assess where the entire class is in their progress. Band members are expected to attend and be on time to all performances. The director must approve absences in advance. If students are excused from a performance, they will be assigned a make up assignment. Any absence that is not brought to the director's attention for approval at least two weeks prior to the performance will be considered unexcused.

### *Practice Charts (25%)*

Students are required to practice at least 5 days throughout the week. Practice charts must be turned in each Wednesday, complete with parent initials and signatures to show the student has made the effort. Practice Charts are our homework.

### *Extra Credit*

The band director will provide a list of extra credit assignments near the beginning of each grading period. They are due before the end of that grading period. Specific due dates will be given.

Grading Scale: A= 93-100 / B=85-92 / C=75-84 / D=70-75 / F= 69-0

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## SCHOOL FACILITIES, INSTRUMENTS, AND EQUIPMENT FACILITIES

Huntingdon Middle School is privileged to have an amazing rehearsal space. Band members are expected to treat all facilities we use with respect and cleanliness. Do not bring food, drinks, or gum into band room (with the exception of water). You will be asked to throw away any drinks/food you bring to the band room.

### *Instruments*

The band program is privileged to have wind and percussion instruments that are not feasible for students to own. Obviously, these instruments are not cheap. Students who use these instruments are expected to give the proper care and daily maintenance to the instruments to use. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in the student being charged for the repair costs.

Students who use school-owned instruments are expected to follow these guidelines:

1. Treat the instrument with care.
2. Do not leave the instrument in a position to be walked on or dropped.
3. Always store the instrument in the case with latches closed.
4. Store the case in a locked instrument locker.

### *Fundraisers*

Each year the band program participates in a variety of fundraisers to raise money to purchase new instruments, new equipment and new music. Each student is encouraged to participate to raise funds for the program so that each student is provided resources needed for a positive experience. Specific information about fundraisers will be provided at a later time.

### *Supplies*

Students may purchase supplies before or after class. Plan ahead and be sure to have the appropriate materials on hand when needed.

- Brass players will be expected to have valve or slide oil, a mouthpiece brush, and tuning slide grease on hand at all times. There will be a mouthpiece puller available in the band office if needed. Please do not attempt to pull out a stuck mouthpiece with pliers because it can result in serious expensive damage to your instrument. ---
- Woodwind players should have a reed case, two good reeds, swab, and cork grease on hand at all time. Please also remember that you will only be as good as your equipment allows you to be- if you are playing on the cheapest reed available, you can only achieve the sound potential of the reed.
- Percussionists will be responsible for their own snare drum and mallet kit (which may be kept at home to practice with), drumsticks, and mallets for bells and timpani.

All students will need

1. A current Sound Innovations Book
2. Instrument
3. Proper Care Kits (These are provided with AMRO instrument rentals.)
4. Music Folder (Provided free from AMRO Music)
5. At least 2 extra reeds (Clarinet and Saxophone only)

### *Repairs*

Accidents with instruments do happen and when they do, the director can make minor repairs after school. Please leave the broken instrument in the director's office after class. If the director is unable to repair the instrument, please call Amro Music and inform them

of the problem. The music store will then pick up the instrument from HMS, repair it and return it to school. Please make arrangements for payment with the music store that repairs the instrument.

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## CONCERT EXPECTATIONS

Prior to each concert band performance, one or more dress rehearsals may be held after school. These dress rehearsals are vital to our performance. Any absence, whether excused or unexcused, may result in the loss of performance privilege for the respective concert. Dress rehearsals will be announced with two weeks notice.

### *Concert Attire*

Band students will be expected to wear the proper uniform at all concerts (unless specified otherwise). The performance uniform will be ALL BLACK, dressy attire. No jeans, sneakers, or t-shirts will be allowed.

- Boys will wear black slacks, black long sleeve dress shirt, black socks, and black dress shoes.
  - Girls will wear any of the three following options:
    - Option 1: black dress (knee length or longer, short sleeve or longer), black tights or stockings, and black dress shoes
    - Option 2: black skirt (knee length or longer) with black tights or stockings, black dressy shirt (short sleeve or longer) and dress shoes
    - Option 3: black dress pants, black dressy shirt, black socks, and black dress shoes.
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## COMMUNICATION

I intend to be available as much as I can be. There are a lot of gears that turn to make a successful band program, and communication with parents is a must. Please do not hesitate to ask as many questions as needed. I always have an open-door policy regarding matter towards a student's progress. Below are ways to contact Mr. Davis, and stay updated on important information.

School Phone: 731-986-4544

School Fax: 731-986-8689

Cell Phone: 731-695-3949

Email address: [jdavis@huntingdonschools.net](mailto:jdavis@huntingdonschools.net)

### REMIND

I will be using Remind constantly to keep parents connected. Please make sure that you give an eligible mobile number or email so you can be signed up for Remind text updates and reminders.

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## SCHOOL WIDE CONCESSIONS

We have a very fortunate situation in that the band program is in charge of all concessions at the sporting events at the high school and middle school. We will be in contact with you to assist in helping work concessions at these events. Please make yourself available for at least 2-3 of these opportunities.

## TENTATIVE CALENDAR 2017-2018

*Updated May 1, 2017*

This is a tentative list of events for the Huntingdon Middle School. Official dates and additional events will be sent home at a later time. Details will be sent home closer to the time of the event. If changes occur, students and parents will be given at least two weeks notice.

Once announced, keep the calendar in a place at home so that it can be referred to when planning trips or other family activities. If you have a conflict with one of the dates in the calendar,, please let me know now, so that I will be able to make arrangements for an alternate performer and arrange a make-up assignment. Please remember that these performances are a crucial part of the student's grade and it is very important for all members to be present and on time.

It is also the parent's responsibility to arrange for timely transportation to and from all scheduled events (unless otherwise specified). If there is a problem, please contact the director at least two weeks in advance of the performance.

August 8	Instrument Rental Meeting
September 14 or 21	HMS Homecoming ( <i>7th/8th Grade Only</i> )
November 9	Veteran's Day Program
December 9	Christmas Parade
December 12	Christmas Concert
January 13	All-West Auditions
January 25-27	UT Martin Honor Band ( <i>if selected</i> )
February 9-11	All-West Clinics ( <i>pending successful audition</i> )
March 3	Solo and Ensemble Festival
March 22	Concert Festival
April 19	Spring Concert

*\*Please be aware that some dates may change, with proper notice. This is only a tentative schedule.*

*\*Parents will be notified though Remind.*

*\*Updated calendars will be sent throughout the year.*

## BOOSTER MEETINGS

We would love to have as many parents as possible involved in the Huntingdon Band Boosters. Even If you are a parent of a child in the 6th grade, many things that happen now can affect your child in the future. Seeds we sow now can grow into greater opportunities for the program later on down the road. Booster meetings usually happen on the first Tuesday of each month at the Huntingdon High School Band Room. You will find a tentative Booster Meeting schedule below.

August 1  
 September 5  
 October 3  
 November 7  
 December 4  
 January 9  
 February 6  
 March 6  
 April 3  
 May 1



# HUNTINGDON MIDDLE SCHOOL

## CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

### Student Information

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Gender: M F

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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We have a very fortunate situation in that the band program is in charge of all concessions at the sporting events at the high school and middle school. This brings in thousands of dollars each year into our program. We will be in contact with you to assist in helping work concessions at these events. Please make yourself available for at least 2-3 of these opportunities.

Please check your availability below.

\_\_\_\_ Monday Evenings

\_\_\_\_ Tuesday Evenings

\_\_\_\_ Thursday Evenings

\_\_\_\_ Friday Evenings

