



Mandan Middle School Band
Student Handbook

“People Taking Pride in Performance”

Welcome to the Mandan Middle School Band Program! Our band program takes pride in musical excellence and the development of our students to reach their highest potential both individually and as a team. There are certain key factors that your band directors feel all members of the program should strive towards on a regular basis, which include **responsibility, respect, commitment, and a positive attitude.**

The Mandan Middle School Band Principles Focus on the following:

- Pride in Daily Preparation
 - Pride in All Playing
 - Pride in the Product
- Pride in the willingness of members to sacrifice for the good of the group
 - Pride in being a valuable part of this great organization
 - PRIDE

Communication with your directors is vital to success throughout the school year. Please feel free to contact us via phone or email.

The Mandan Middle School phone number is: (701) 751-6502

Sara Baumann -- Sara.Baumann@msd1.org

Rebecca Warren – Rebecca.Warren@msd1.org

Stephanie Finn – Stephanie.Finn@msd1.org

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Band Room Expectations

1. Students will be respectful to others.
2. Students will use equipment properly, keep it in the right place, and return it after use.
3. Be prepared. Students will have proper supplies and equipment and be ready to learn.
4. Students will play at appropriate times only.
5. No gum, food, or candy is allowed in the band room.

*Always be in the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment,
and the right attitude.*

Grading Procedures

Grades will be determined by four main categories:

1. Daily Grade (40%)

Students should be seated on time ready for rehearsal with their music, a pencil, and instrument ready to play. The band cannot rehearse at its full ability without everyone's contribution.

Participation and musical effort will be evaluated for a daily grade that is entered at the beginning of each week (100 pts per week). Students should be prepared to perform their parts during class to show knowledge of the music.

Students must have their instruments in class every day. Failure to have the instrument will result in a 50% (10 pts) deduction in participation points for the day.

Poor behavior or disruption of class can result in a deduction from the daily grade.

2. Like-Instrument Lessons (30%)

Each section of the band will have one like-instrument lesson per week. This time will be spent focusing upon specific needs for students on each instrument. Additional skills will be taught to improve performance abilities. Students will attend sectionals during band time, and performance assessments will be made 3 to 5 times per quarter. Assessments will be determined by the sectional teachers. Additional focus on solo/ensemble materials, JH All-State Band auditions, and chair placement challenges will take place during these times.

3. Practice Cards (15%)

Progress for the whole band begins with individual improvement by students. All band students are expected to practice and turn in weekly practice cards. Students should practice 100 minutes per week. Amounts less than 100 minutes will be graded according to the total number of minutes reported. If a student practices more than 100 minutes per week, these points are also reflected on the student's grade as extra credit points.

**** For 7th and 8th grade students only:**

If a student turns in their practice card on time with a minimum of 100 minutes and signed by a parent/guardian for the first 5 weeks in a row of each quarter, the student will be excused from turning in practice cards for the rest of the quarter. If one is late or missed, then practice cards will be due every week for the entire 9 weeks. If a student has an excused absence on the day practice cards are due, then the card must be turned in the first day of returning to school. This opportunity will start over each 9 weeks, so students have 4 opportunities to participate. Students must have at least a "B" or higher in band in order to participate in this bonus program. Students cannot be on the program if he/she has an unexcused absence from a performance. If a student is successful and does not have to turn in practice cards for the rest of the quarter, he/she will still be responsible for preparation of all performance literature for band class and sectionals. If that student continues to turn in practice minutes, they will be treated as extra credit points.

4. Written Tests/Performances (15%)

Written tests will be given primarily at the end of each quarter. Students can be expected to be tested upon general music knowledge, terms, reading/writing of music and rhythms, and scales studies. Short quizzes may also be administered throughout the semester.

Performance Expectations

Attendance at performances is a responsibility of each band member! Performances are an extension of the classroom and are a combined effort in the band to show the public our accomplishments, which are an important part of your grade. Performances include concerts, parades, and the solo/ensemble festival. Attendance is mandatory and students will receive a grade for each performance.

A list of scheduled performances for the entire school year will be sent home with students the first week of school. The schedule is also available on the Mandan Middle School website.

As performances are an extension of the classroom and are categorized as a test, an absence from a performance for any reason will require a make-up assignment. This assignment must be completed by the end of the current grading period.

Uniforms

In order to maintain a professional appearance, all MMS band students wear matching uniforms.

6th grade students wear our MMS band t-shirt, blue jeans, and nice tennis shoes.

7th and 8th grade MMS band students wear a black MMS band polo shirt, black pants, black socks, and black shoes.

Shirts are to be tucked in for performances. More information regarding order and purchase of band shirts will be sent out in the fall.

Jewelry worn should be minimal. If a student needs to wear a belt it should be black. Hair is to be kept out of the face.

Supplies/Equipment

All students are provided a folder for sheet music at the beginning of the year. All music handed out must be kept safely in this folder. Please remember that sheet music is like your “textbook” and should be cared for properly with minimal damage.

The MMS Band Dept uses the Essential Elements 2000 book series. These books are used on a daily basis, and are available for purchase at JW Pepper and Eckroth music stores. Please have them with you on the first day of school and put your name in it!

6th grade: EE 2000 Book 1 (yellow)

7th grade: EE 2000 Book 2 (red)

8th grade: Essential Technique (teal)

A musical instrument is not a toy and should be treated with care and respect. Be sure to handle all band equipment properly and do not touch instruments that are not yours without permission. An instrument in the repair shop means you are not able to fully participate in class and can be costly.

Students also need to have the appropriate accessories each day in order to perform in class.

- Woodwind instruments need to have at least 3 to 4 working reeds that are in good shape at all times. These should be stored in a proper reed case. Be sure to have a good swab and cork grease.
- Brass instruments must have proper oils and tuning slide grease. Trombones should have Trombotine and a small spray bottle.

All band students should have their name on their instrument case with a proper tag.

Students who rent a school-owned instrument (Tuba, Euphonium, French Horn, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet) are responsible for sending in the rental fee at the beginning of the school year. The instruments are covered for maintenance and regular “wear and tear”, but students are responsible for any damage that is malicious or intentional.

Percussionists:

6th grade percussionists will need their snare/mallet packs at school for band class.

7th and 8th grade percussion students need to keep their snare/mallet packs at home for practice and will use school-owned percussion equipment at school. A \$50 equipment/maintenance fee needs to be turned in at the beginning of the school year. These funds are used exclusively for the percussion section to replace broken equipment and purchase necessary supplies.

Storage Lockers:

Each student will be assigned an instrument storage locker at the beginning of the year. Students may store their instrument, music folder, and a pencil. Backpacks, jackets, or other materials must be stored in their assigned school locker. Students are not to use a padlock on these lockers. Doors must be kept closed at all times with the exception of taking things out or putting them away so as to prevent accidental injury. Students are not to go into any locker other than their own.

Jazz Ensemble

The MMS Jazz Band is an extra-curricular ensemble that focuses on learning introductory jazz styles including swing, rock, latin and funk. This group is for continuing learning on an instrument that the student already knows how to play and progresses at a slightly more advanced rate. Jazz Band rehearses at 7:45 AM on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings in the MMS band room. The Jazz Band performs for MMS spirit rallies, the University of Mary Jazz Festival, and additional concerts throughout the year. There is placement for 7th and 8th grade saxophones, trumpets, trombones, guitar, bass guitar, piano, trap set, and auxiliary percussionists.

Camp Scholarships

MMS Band Students in grades 6-8 have the opportunity to apply for partial scholarships, which can be used to attend the International Music Camp and the Mandan Jazz Camp. Applications are made available in the spring from the band directors. Funds for these scholarships are made available through fundraising efforts and concert admissions.

Band Booster Organization/Parent Volunteers

The Mandan Band Program stretches from grades 6 through 12 and has a very strong Band Booster organization. All parents of band students are members of the Mandan Band Booster Organization and are invited to attend informative meetings regarding activities, performances, and fundraising. There are times during the year when the MMS band needs the help and support of parent volunteers. Please feel free to contact the MMS band department for more information.

Mandan Middle School Band
Student Member/Parent Contact Information

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Instrument: _____ **Director:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

School Team: Flickertail Prairie Rose Meadowlark
 Miners Trailblazers Rangers Wranglers

Parent (1) Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent (2) Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Band Handbook Acceptance

I have read and understand the policies and procedures of the Mandan Middle School Band.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____