



Welcome

We are very excited about the 2010-2011 Conner Middle School Band Program and are very confident that the enthusiasm of our students will make this a great year for us. As with any new program your child is involved in, it is our job to help educate students and parents alike on the “ins and outs” of our program and how we function. With so many students involved, it is absolutely essential that you read the handbook thoroughly to orient yourself with our policies and procedures and to familiarize yourself with contact information and where to go to for updates, concert times, concert attire, and any other information of importance. We set very high expectations for our students in classroom behavior and performance level. In addition, we also believe that students who work hard and have success on their instrument will have a lot of fun; however, working hard and sounding great on the instrument are the two key components to your success in our band program.

Please remember that if you have any questions or problems, contact Mr. Daughters. Word of mouth isn't the best way to get information and sometimes accurate information doesn't find its way home. **Also, check the band website for frequent updates! (www.connermusic.org/band)**

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GRADING SYSTEM

- ❖ Practice 33% of Grade
 - Practice log turned in each Monday or Tuesday (signed by parent).
 - 100 minutes a week for an “A”
- ❖ Preparation/Work Ethic 33% of Grade
 - Having Instrument and instrument in working condition.
 - Music and pencil in folder
 - Teamwork/Effort/Attitude
- ❖ Performance 33% of Grade
 - Playing Tests (scales, rhythms, etudes)
 - School/Festival Performances (Attendance)
- ❖ Grades are based on a 100 point scale.
- ❖ Extra credit is given for participation in honor bands, select band, and any concert you attend that is approved by Mr. Daughters. Students must bring a program back from the performance for credit.
- ❖ Success comes when we understand that: “you PRACTICE at home, we REHEARSE at school!”
- ❖ Your job is to come prepared every day!

ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is very important that you understand that band is a performance class. Major test grades come from performances. All band performances are a requirement to be a member of this organization.

- ❖ Band is considered a curricular class and performances outside of the school day are considered an extension of the school day. Therefore, **PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY!** A performance is considered a final exam in a unit of study. Our band depends on each and every student. You are important to an outstanding performance. If you should have to miss a performance or special rehearsal, Mr. Daughters should receive a written note or email 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 Mr. Daughters as soon as possible and/or send in a note the following day of school. Any student who must miss a concert, with an excused absence, will be required to perform individually for full credit. Most importantly, please plan ahead and communicate with Mr. Daughters. More often than not, there are ways to work around the conflict.
- ❖ There may be an occasion where we will need to have an extra rehearsal after school. You will be given advance notice and are expected to attend. Unexcused absences can negatively affect your grade and could result in you not performing with the group.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

- ❖ Students will check the board for the agenda for the day.
- ❖ No books, book bags, or instrument cases should be left on the floor at any time (small cases under seats).
- ❖ On a daily basis, students must have a pencil, instrument and method book/music – instrument cases must have an ID tag. Many instrument cases look similar. An identification tag is a requirement!
- ❖ The rehearsal begins when the conductor steps on the podium.
- ❖ Students will not play other student's instruments. This includes percussion and school owned instruments. No horseplay in the band room AT ANY TIME!
- ❖ Good posture is of great importance at all times.
- ❖ Always raise your hand to ask a question.
- ❖ ABSOLUTELY NO GUM, CANDY, GOOD, OR DRINKS IN THE BAND ROOM – EVER!! Take pride in our rehearsal space.
- ❖ If your instrument is in the shop, bring a note from home. Bring your mouthpiece and music, for there is always the possibility that we might be able to provide a temporary instrument.
- ❖ If you forget your instrument, you will be given an "On-Demand" writing assignment to do during class.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

- ❖ All students will give whoever is speaking attention and respect.
- ❖ All students will respect each other's personal space and property.
- ❖ All students will come to class each day well prepared. **THIS MEANS PRACTICING AT HOME.**
- ❖ All students will come to class with a positive attitude.
- ❖ All students will participate in performances, class activities and discussions.
- ❖ All students will protect their personal property and the property of the school.
IF IT IS NOT YOURS, DON'T TOUCH IT!

REQUIRED CONCERT ATTIRE

The point of a uniform is so that the whole group looks the same. We don't want anyone to stick out or draw the audience's attention away from the music. Concerts are formal occasions and the performers should be dressed up! Thanks for your cooperation!

- ❖ **Boys:** Black button-up shirt, long sleeve w/ black tie. Black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes. (all provided by the student)
- ❖ **Girls:** All black (dress/formal) skirt (or dress), blouse, black hose, black shoes (all provided by the student)

If you have any difficulties obtaining any of these items, please let Mr. Daughters know as soon as possible (not the day before the concert!) so that we may assist you.

EXPENSES AND FUNDRAISING

Occasionally students will need money for the extra things they want to participate in – such as Select Band, Solo and Ensemble, etc. Furthermore, basic needs such as reeds, valve oil, method books, etc., will need to be replenished from time to time. Keep in mind there is no set fee to participate in band and I will always be more than willing to help if needed. Fundraising must happen in order for us to provide opportunities for our students. Maintaining school instruments, investing in new music, rehearsal and sectional staff, etc. are all just a small example of the needs of the instrumental music program. With no budget supplied to us, we must raise the funds ourselves.

We are planning 2 fundraisers for the year (provided we meet our goals). We will be selling mums in September and flower sale in the spring. **PLEASE REMEMBER THAT STUDENTS DO NOT GET A GRADE FOR FUNDRAISING AND ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE.** When traveling, all students will be asked to pay a small transportation fee – as customary with all school trips. Students who meet both fundraising goals will be eligible to go to Kings Island in the spring.

ANTICIPATED DATES

PERFORMANCE DATES AND EVENTS ARE SET AT LEAST ONE MONTH PRIOR TO THE EVENTS. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT MR. DAUGHTERS DOES SCHEDULE AROUND SCHOOL EVENTS, THEY WILL NOT CONFLICT. THIS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGES.

October	"Band Education Night" Performance / Fall Concert – ALL GROUPS University of Kentucky Middle School Band Invitational – Symphonic Band
December	Winter Concert – ALL GROUPS
January	Select Band Auditions at Woodland MS – INTERESTED STUDENTS
March	Large Ensemble Festival at NKU – ALL GROUPS Select Band @ NKU – SELECTED STUDENTS
April	Solo and Ensemble (@ CMS on Stage)
May	Recruiting Program for incoming 5 th graders – 6 TH GRADE DURING DAY Spring Concert – ALL GROUPS Northern Kentucky Jazz Festival – JAZZ ENSEMBLE

PRIVATE LESSONS/PEER MENTORING

Private lessons are not required for participation in band (exception for beginning percussion students) 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 groups that will meet during class time, private lessons can continue through the year and are truly individualized. We encourage all students to study privately if it is possible. You can see one of the local music dealers for private lesson information, or enroll in private lesson program at Conner Middle.

Beginning percussion students are required to be enrolled in one 30 minute private lesson a week. 7th and 8th grade percussion students must continue in private lessons OR participate in percussion ensemble.

The Peer Mentoring Program is a way for 7th and 8th graders to help our beginning 6th grade students. 7th and 8th grade students will meet with their 6th grade "buddies" one time a week for 20 minutes. Students can accomplish this in one of 3 ways:

1. Before school at 7:00
2. During extension 1 time a week
3. After school until 3:15

Times will be agreed on by both students and parents. This will insure that 6th grade students are getting all questions answered by students who are skilled on their instruments. All 8th grade band students and select 7th graders will be paired with 6th grade students.

A FINAL WORD ON PRACTICING

All in all, your grade really does come down to practice time. "You get out of it what you put into it." I guarantee that if you do not practice and commit yourself to getting better, you will not enjoy band, period. Those who make it a habit to practice and commit yourself to excellence, will love band. For those students who have large instruments and cannot take them on the bus, the expectations are the same. You can come during extension any Friday to practice, come before school (7:00) or stay after school until 3:30. **YOU CAN MAKE IT WORK!**

INSTRUMENT CARE

All students are expected to keep their instrument in good working condition at all times – this includes having the proper items necessary to take care of the instrument. Instruments that are in need of repair can be taken directly to the rental store or can be left in the band room for pick-up. Wert and Willis music visit the band room on a weekly basis. With this in mind, students should keep their personal items (reeds, mouthpieces, etc) out of the case. The music store or CMS will provide a "loaner" instrument while yours is being repaired.

FRIDAY NIGHT REWARDS

For each report card, there will be a designated Friday Night Rewards Party for all students who have an A/B average on their ENITRE report card and have no reported discipline incidents. The rewards party will include pizza, a newly released movie shown on the big screen in the band room, and games (even a chance to win \$\$\$). Keep in mind that only those students who meet the above criteria can participate. Cost is \$5 each.