



NORTHWESTERN MIDDLE

Band Handbook 2022-2023

Mr. Shawn Gee – Director of Bands

Mrs. Rebecca Brian – Principal

*“Music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to
life and to everything” – Plato*

Northwestern Middle School

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CONTACT

Throughout the school year, if you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please find my contact information below:

Mr. Gee's Email: shawn.gee@zacharyschool.org

Band Website: northwesternmsband.weebly.com

Remind Messenger: This is a free system that allows us to communicate back and forth via text message, without sharing our private phone numbers. We highly encourage you to sign up on your phone AND your child's cell phone to receive reminders throughout the year.

To sign up,

8th Grade 1st hour - Text @nmsband81 to 81010

8th Grade 2nd hour Jazz - Text @nmsjazz to 81010

7th Grade 3rd hour - Text @nmsband73 to 81010

7th Grade 4th hour Beginner Band - Text @nmsband74 to 81010

8th Grade Beginner Band - Text @nmsband85 to 81010

Grading Policy

Band is a performance-based class so each performance will be treated as a quiz, test, or exam when appropriate. These performances include concerts, festival performances, and playing quizzes. While it is a performance-based class, we will also include written assignments that will consist of music subdivision, reading, terminology, assessment, and analyzing.

- Weekly participation – 50 points
- Pass Off's Per Week – 50 points per pass off
- Written Exams – 100 points
- Performances – 100 points

Grading Scale

93-100% - A

85-92% - B

75-84% - C

67-74% - D

0-66% - F

NMS BAND RULES

Be respectful

No talking when the director is working

Do not touch or play on anything that does not belong to you!

Eating, drinking or gum chewing in the band room is prohibited

Consequences

Consequence – 1st Offense: Verbal Warning

Consequence – 2nd Offense: Director Meeting

Consequence – 3rd Offense: Parent Phone Call

Consequence – 4th + Offense: Referral

Supplies

BUYING or RENTING INSTRUMENTS

You can buy or rent instruments at several local music stores or online. It is important to purchase a reputable brand from a reputable instrument dealer to insure your student the most success on the instrument and the least amount of time sending the instrument to the repair shop. It is almost ALWAYS better to buy a quality **used** instrument or **rent** one then to buy a brand new instrument "cheap". Locally we have the Music and Arts stores (formally Alison's World of Music on Airline Highway and Zeagler's Music on Florida Blvd). Music and Arts rentals are also now online at www.musicarts.com/rentals/

If you decide to purchase, especially if you prefer to shop online, please contact Mr. Gee for specific instrument/website recommendations.

RECOMMENDED INSTRUMENTS & SUPPLIES

Below is a list of each instrument, recommended brands, and the supplies that each instrument requires. Links are provided to give you an example of the product recommended.

WHAT TO AVOID:

- Colorful plastic instruments
- Amazon
- Instruments sold at places other than reputable music stores
- BRAND NEW instrument that is less than \$400... if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

ALL STUDENTS NEED:

- **Label all instrument cases with the student's name**
- **\$30.00 BAND FEE**
- **1 1/2 inch Band Binder**
- 5 Dividers
- Page Protectors (Lots!!!)
- Pencil Pouch (To fit in page protectors)
- **Flip folder and music lyre** (purchase at local music store, 7th & 8th grade only)
- **Pencils** (Please bring 1 or 2 packs of pencils to school to be left in class)
- **Music Stand** (Optional for at-home practice)
- **Korg TM-50 or TM-60 Metronome/Tuner Combo with Contact Microphone**

Woodwinds

Flute - (brands to look for: Yamaha, Gemeinhardt, Pearl, Haynes)

1. Cleaning swab for the inside of the instrument (an old cut up t-shirt works great)
2. Polishing cloth for the outside of the instrument (ex., a silver polishing cloth)
3. Plastic Tuning Rod
4. "Flutist Friend" Music Lyre with Flip Folder (7th & 8th Grade)

Clarinet - (brands to look for: Buffet, Yamaha, LeBlanc, Selmer, Vito)

1. Reeds: Vandoren 2 ½ or 3 - 3-4 boxes should last the year if well taken care of. **Reed quality and strength GREATLY effect pitch and tone, please stick to the recommended brands ONLY for best results!** These can also be ordered on Amazon.
*6th Graders should buy 1 box of size 2, they will step up to size 2 ½ quickly.
2. Cleaning kit – Should include: cork grease, a drop cloth for the inside of the instrument, mouthpiece brush
3. Flip Folder
4. Music Lyre

Bass Clarinet - Instrument rented through school

1. Reeds: Vandoren 2 ½ or 3 - **Reed quality and strength GREATLY effect pitch and tone, please stick to the recommended brands ONLY for best results!**
2. Flip Folder (flip folder only, music lyres are not made for the bass clarinet)

Saxophone - (brands to look for: Selmer, Yamaha, Conn, Keilwerth)

1. Reeds: Vandoren 2 ½ or 3 – 3-4 boxes should last the year if well take care of. **Reed quality and strength GREATLY effect pitch and tone, please stick to the recommended brands ONLY for best results!**
*6th Graders should buy 1 box of size 2 or Medium Soft reeds, they will step up to size Medium or 2 ½ quickly.
2. Padded neckstrap
3. Cleaning kit – Should include: cork grease, cloth for the outside of the instrument, mouthpiece brush
4. Flip Folder
5. Music Lyre

Low Saxophones - Instrument rented through school

1. Reeds: **Reed quality and strength GREATLY effect pitch and tone, please stick to the recommended brands ONLY for best results!**
Tenor Saxophone Reeds: Vandoren 2 ½
Bari Saxophone Reeds: Vandoren 2 ½
2. Flip Folder
3. Music Lyre

High Brass

Trumpet - (brands to look for: Bach, Yamaha, Getzen, King, Conn)

1. Mouthpiece – Size 7C (comparable Yamaha Size 11C4) – Size is important and can greatly affect the sound and the ease of playing! Many instruments “come” with a mouthpiece at purchase/rental. Make sure it has a size indicated on it! Advanced players should also have a Size 5C. The brand “Bach” is most recommended.
2. Cleaning kit – Should include: polishing cloth for the outside of the instrument, mouthpiece brush, valve casing brush, and snake brush (may also include slide grease and valve oil).
3. Valve oil
4. Tuning side grease
5. Flip Folder
6. Music Lyre (“Yamaha” brand trumpets use a different size lyre, [click here](#))

French Horn – Instrument rented through school

1. Mouthpiece – Holton Farkas Size MDC - Size and brand are important and can greatly affect the sound and the ease of playing!
2. Cleaning kit – Should include polishing cloth for the outside of the instrument, mouthpiece brush, and snake brush (may also include slide grease and valve oil).
3. Rotor Oil
4. Tuning side grease
5. Flip Folder (flip folder only, music lyres are not made for the french horn)

Low Brass

Trombone - (brands to look for: Bach, Yamaha, Conn, Getzen, King)

1. Mouthpiece – Size 6 ½ AL or 12C (small shank) - Size is important and can greatly affect the sound and the ease of playing! Many instruments “come” with a mouthpiece at purchase/rental. Make sure it has a size indicated on it!
2. Mouthpiece brush
3. Snake Brush
4. Slide oil or Slide-o-Mix (the best)
5. Tuning side grease
6. Cleaning Cloth
7. Flip Folder with Lyre

NOTE: If you are able to get a trombone with an “F-Attachment” - these are great! It allows the student to reach the furthest portions just by hitting a trigger. These are expensive and not expected, but wonderful to have! You can often find these used for a great price.

Baritone/Euphonium – Instrument rented through school

1. Mouthpiece – Size 6 ½ AL or 12C (small shank) - Size is important and can greatly affect the sound and the ease of playing! Many instruments “come” with a mouthpiece at purchase/rental. Make sure it has a size indicated on it!
2. Mouthpiece brush
3. Valve oil – Purchase several bottles to last the year!
4. Tuning side grease
5. Cleaning Cloth
6. Flip Folder
7. Lyre

Tuba – Instrument rented through school

1. Mouthpiece – Conn Helleberg 7B - Size is important and can greatly affect the sound and the ease of playing! Many instruments “come” with a mouthpiece at purchase/rental. Make sure it has a size indicated on it!
2. Mouthpiece brush
3. Valve oil – Purchase several bottles to last the year!
4. Tuning side grease
5. Cleaning Cloth
6. Flip Folder
7. Lyre

Percussion

Percussion – (Bell kits with snare practice pad, brands to look for: Ludwig, Pearl, Yamaha, Vic Firth, Yamaha)

1. Option #1 - Buy all components in one educational kit, but still purchase a pair of Vic Firth SD1 General Snare Sticks separately
 1. Sound Percussion Complete Bell Kit with Practice Pad
 2. Pearl Complete Bell Kit with Practice Pad
 3. Vic Firth Complete Bell Kit with Practice Pad
2. Option #2 - Buy components separately if you already have some items
 1. Vic Firth SD1 General Snare Sticks
 2. Drum practice pad, there are a variety of options on the market, all are good. Here are some examples:
 1. Remo Practice Pad with Stand (duplicates what we use at school)
 2. Vic Firth Practice Pad
 3. Bells (sometimes called “educational kit” or “glockenspiel” – at least a “25 note” size, “30 note” or larger is recommended). Here are some examples:
 1. Stagg 25 Note Bells
 2. Giantex 27 Note Bells
 3. Wooden Xylophone

Concert Dress Code

An important part of music performance is the uniform “look” of the ensemble. Like any team or group, we want to emphasize the uniformity of a professional looking ensemble. Please assist us in this matter by closely following Northwestern Concert Dress Code for all major performances:

- All students will wear a band polo tucked into khaki pants, a solid black belt, and a pair of closed toed shoes
- All students are asked to refrain from wearing excessive perfumes, colognes, and hairsprays at performances. Hygiene is important; deodorant will be sufficient.
- Students not adhering to the concert dress code will lose the majority of their performance portion of their grade. If a student does not have a band polo, they will not participate in a performance.
- This uniform will be worn at the NMS Veterans Day Concert, Spring Concert, District IV Festival, Festival Disney and other public performances.

Instrument Care

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS / EQUIPMENT

- Musical instruments and other equipment must be signed out through the band director. At that time, you must complete a rental agreement form and will be responsible for the equipment until it is officially checked back into the inventory.
- Ordinary care must be used when maintaining this instrument/equipment. You will not be held responsible for normal wear and tear or aging of any instrument/equipment. You will, however, be held financially responsible for damage which occurs due to lack of proper care, neglect, rough handling, or loss of equipment.
- No student is to, at any time, touch or play any school-owned instruments to which he or she has not been assigned by a band director. This includes percussion instruments and equipment.

Instrument Storage and Identification

- Instrument lockers are to be used for instrumental storage only. Each student is assigned a specific locker, which is to be kept clean. Instruments are to be put in their cases, and the cases kept closed and latched while in the storage area.
- **All students will need a label (provided) on their instrument case with their name and locker number**

Band Department Fees

Band Fees: A Band Fee will be assessed at the beginning of the school year for all students in band. This fee will be \$30 per student and is non-refundable. The Band Fee will be used to help pay for their method books, festival entrance fees, transportation, sheet music, small pieces of band equipment and other expenses.

Band Polo Fee: The fee will be \$15. A band polo will need to be purchased for every student. Students will wear this as their uniform shirt.

**IF YOU HAVE PURCHASED A BAND POLO IN THE PAST, YOU DO NOT
NEED TO PURCHASE ANOTHER ONE!**

Instrument Rental Fee: An instrument user fee for those students who will be playing on school owned instruments will be assessed. This fee is \$50 for the school year. The fee is non-refundable, and a NMS rental contract will be signed in accordance with the rental. The school instrument rental fee is used for the maintenance of school owned instruments.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ALL BAND FEES/INSTRUMENT RENTAL
FEES PAID IN FULL BY Friday, September 1st. IF YOU NEED TO
SCHEDULE A PAYMENT PLAN, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT
ME.**

Items to Consider Purchasing

1. **MUSIC STAND:** This helps support good posture and will aid in good practice habits! Average Price: \$12
2. **BERPS:** This is specifically to brass players; this device will help you with your buzzing and your playing. You can adjust the resistance of your buzz and overtime, it will help with your range and tone. Average Price: \$20
<https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/search.jsp?redirect=accessories/brass-berps>



Music Apps to Consider Download

- **Tonal Energy** – App that provides you with a drone, tuner, and metronome. Contains many other features as well.
- **Bandmate** – App to let you see pitches you play in the staff according to your instrument.
- **iRealPro** – App that helps you improvise over backing tracks.
- **Tenuto** – Music Theory app that contains ear training, aural training, and games. For All!
- **insTuner** – Tuner and Drone.
- **Pro Metronome** – Metronome