

Johnakin Middle School

Band Handbook



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Welcome!

Welcome to the 2022-23 Johnakin Middle School Band! This handbook has been written as a reference for band members and their parents. It contains information about the band program in general; schedule, procedures, etcetera.

Parental support is critical to the musical (and general) development of your child. Please try to be involved. Consult your band handbook as needed throughout the year. Music is a wonderful endeavor and we are pleased that you have chosen to be a part of it.

Musically Yours,

Ms. Tepedino, Director

Why Music Education?

Music is Science: It is exact, specific and it demands exact acoustics. Printed music is a chart, a graph, which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.

Music is Mathematical: It is rhythmically based on the subdivision of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

Music is Foreign Language: Most of the terms are in Italian, German or French and the notations are certainly not English - but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas, not unlike the symbols found in computer language. Music is a complete and universal language.

Music is History: Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the national or ethnic mood. Civilizations are often defined by their art.

Music is Physical Education: It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek and other facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragm, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

Music is all of these things, but most of all, music is art: It allows human beings to take all these dry, sometimes difficult techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate: humanism, feeling, emotion.

Johnakin Middle School's Vision for the 2022/2023 School Year

Johnakin Middle School is a community with a vision that thrives on Academic Excellence, Fox Pride, Community Involvement, and an endless thirst for Knowledge. Johnakin Middle School will foster an environment predicated on respect and integrity. This will provide a platform that allows our students to be productive citizens worldwide.

Goals for the Band Program

A. Program Goals

This music program will enable students to:

1. Develop musical sensitivities and skills to their fullest potential. 2. Function as a musician composing, performing, listening to, and evaluating music. 3. Use music as an outlet for creativity and self-expression. 4. Participate enthusiastically in group musical experiences to achieve common goals. 5. Be musically literate in the use of vocabulary and notation. 6. Study our musical heritage through a variety of musical styles and genres. 7. Become acquainted with the various musical careers. 8. Pursue excellence through voluntary participation in honor bands, jazz band, chamber ensembles, and enrollment in private lessons

This comprehensive music program should establish for every student a solid and permanent relationship with music. I encourage students to participate in and support the artistic life of their community well beyond school years.

B. Instructional Goals: The student will:

1. Develop an interest in and appreciation of instrumental music. 2. Develop correct habits of posture, wind/percussion techniques, and care and maintenance of their instrument. 3. Develop discriminating listening and performing skills in tone, intonation, and ensemble blend and balance. 4. Participate in performances of instrumental music utilizing a wide repertoire of literature. 5. Develop positive director-student, and student-student relationships.

C. Director's Goals:

In addition to the above, students will:

1. Develop the skills of self-discipline, cooperation, organization and responsibility needed for a lifetime of success. 2. Develop self-esteem through individual, small group and whole band achievement and performance. 3. Show pride in accomplishment through band activities and individual accomplishments. 4. Work and study at 100% of their potential, both in band and in academic areas. 5. Educate and share with parents, school and community about the importance of music in society by maintaining high levels of performance, visibility and involvement

Communication

Effective communication between the director, students and parents is essential to the smooth, efficient operation of our program. These methods of communication will assist all involved in reaching the common goals of excellence in music education.

A. Outgoing -In addition to class announcements and posted notices in the band room:

1. Sign up for remind we have two per every grade level PLEASE sign up for both:

- For EVERYONE: Text @jmsband22 to 81010
- For Beginning Band:Text @jmsband6 to 81010
- For Advanced Band: Text @jmsband78 to 81010

2. Students will receive a list of concert/activity dates at the beginning of school.

3. Rehearsal Schedules and event reminders will be posted on the Johnakin Band Website

4. Additional opportunities (i.e Auditions, Solo and Ensemble, and Concert Festival) will be posted on the website, Facebook, and Instagram.

5. Important information will be copied into student agendas as well as on the band webpage through Google Calendar. B. Incoming – By far the best way is e-mail. You can also send notes, or call the Band Office. Contact info is on the front of this Handbook. I check my email daily (usually MANY times.) Please be sure to include the student's name on any email. To avoid computer viruses, I do not open email from unfamiliar sources.

Course Offerings and Activities

Beginning Band

Beginning Band No experience necessary. During the first few weeks of school, students try out band instruments to see which is appropriate for them. There will be a night set up on August 25th **to rent instruments**. After that, you must have an instrument no more than one week from the date to get one if you do not attend our rental night. Then.....WE'RE OFF! Beginning band will perform at the band concerts in winter and spring.

Seventh Grade Band

The student must have previous experience in band or have had a substantial period of private lessons on the band instrument. At each grade level there are two band classes.

Eighth Grade Band

The student must have previous experience in band or have had a substantial period of private lessons on the band instrument. At each grade level there are two band classes.

Performing Groups

Curricular

All bands will perform in at least two concerts per year, as outlined in the SC Music Standards. These performances are required of all students and will count as ten percent of the grade for that nine-week period. In order to better prepare for a performance, occasional before-school rehearsals may be scheduled. Concert and rehearsal dates and times will be sent home well in advance. If a student must miss a concert, the director needs to be notified in writing by the parent so that an alternative assignment may be worked out. Such notification is requested two weeks in advance. Emergency or sickness is the only acceptable reason for “no showing.”

Performance Uniform

JMS band uniform is the JMS band shirt and: solid black pants, solid black shoes (no toes), and black socks. Girls may instead wear a solid black skirt with black tights (not hose.) No feet or legs should show. Band Uniform Shirts will be ordered at the beginning of the school year. It is extremely distracting for a performer to be on stage with white socks, blue jeans, etc. at Concert Festival (Band Festival) one of our rating captions is "appearance." Performance grades will be dependent in part on being in proper uniform and arriving on time. If for some reason a band member is unable to acquire necessary uniform parts, the director is to be notified two weeks in advance of the scheduled performance so that perhaps a loaner shirt/pants can be arranged.

Drumline!

Since JMS now holds the drumline for the MaHS Marching band they will be showcased in Pep Rallies, and other various school events. They will have their own shirts made for this reason. Kids will have to be in SCHOOL UNIFORM in the morning but for the event they will be able to wear their shirts but after change back. If your child shows up to school out of uniform you will be called to bring the proper uniform

Additional Opportunities

Region 5 Honor Band

This outstanding group consists of the best middle school band students in the state. Students are selected for this group by passing the district band audition in January, if the student scores well enough they will partake in a second audition in January to play in the All State band if selected. Students are responsible for their own transportation to auditions. Students selected for All State Band go to the clinic in late February/early march, rehearsing and performing with a nationally known composer or director. Those students intending to audition must pass off their scales with Ms. Tepedino before signing up in November. Scale requirements are posted at <http://www.scmea.org> (follow links to Band Division/All-State Band).

Solo and Ensemble

This is a festival in which students prepare and perform as soloists or in small groups (duets, trios, etc.) for a judge who gives the performance a rating. There is no required list, but music needs to be appropriate in nature and difficulty. Ensembles must have all parts covered. Accompanied solos must be performed with accompaniment.

Concert Performance Assessment (CPA or Concert Festival)

This is an event for school bands that perform three selections from a state approved list for a rating. We will have a 7th Grade and an 8th Grade Band perform in this event. Three judges will rate the bands for overall scores. A fourth judge will rate the band in sight-reading. Extra rehearsals and pass-offs will be required for OPA participation.

Carowinds Festival of Music

We work hard we play harder, with a packed schedule this year we are planning to take a celebratory trip. This trip's dates have not been released yet but it will take place at the end of April. Cost of the trip per student will be 80-100 dollars which will be able to be covered with the fundraising that occurs throughout the year. This trip has a working aspect to it, but never fear our playtime will be more. Your student's **grades and discipline** will be taken into consideration for this trip.

Grading Policy

Students receive a grade each nine weeks in achievement, work habits, and conduct.

ACHIEVEMENT: Johnakin Band Students' achievement grade will be calculated using a weighted point system. The weighting is as follows:

40%-Summative Assessments-This category includes tests/quizzes(both playing and written) and any concerts/performances in excess of the one counted as a Final Exam.

30% Formative Assessments- This category includes worksheets, practice records, smaller assignments, and bell work.

Class Participation (10%)- Students will begin with 100% every week in this category, and will lose 20% each time they are unable to participate due to leaving an instrument at home. Other missing materials (method book, notebook, pencil, music, etc) will deduct 5% per item, not to exceed 10% for one class period.

A student whose instrument is in the repair shop will not be penalized as long as procedure is followed. Any time a student is unable to participate in class the director is to be notified in writing by the parent. A written excuse must be furnished to the director when: 1. The student's instrument is being repaired and cannot be brought to school. (Bring your mouthpiece, reeds etc. as we may have an instrument you can borrow). 2. Illness, physical problems, braces adjustment prevent the student from playing in class. Bring your instrument/music and finger along.

10%-Final Exam (Concert)-Concert performance is the culmination of all that we do in a band class. Therefore it is expected that all band members attend all performances. A quality performance is a team effort and is the result of 100% of its members. If any one player is out the performance is adversely affected. Transportation to and from concerts is the responsibility of the parent. Please mark your calendar accordingly. If, for some reason, your child needs help with transportation, let me know well in advance and we can try to find another parent who can help. This works well if enough time is given.

Students will be given academic credit for participating in scheduled concerts. Roll will be checked. The Concert Grade is in part based upon the student being on time for warm up and in proper uniform unless other arrangements are made in advance.

Grading Cont'd

The following guidelines will determine the nature of an absence from a concert:

A. EXCUSED -an absence due to illness or a family emergency. Students will be given an alternative way to earn their grade. Extenuating circumstances may be given consideration by the director. Parents MUST notify the director well in advance of the concert in all cases except emergencies if the student wishes to receive make-up work. Otherwise, the absence will be considered "unexcused."

B. UNEXCUSED -all absences other than illness or emergencies. Again, transportation to and from concerts is the responsibility of the parent. Concerts are planned well in advance. Please make necessary arrangements.

Part of my belief as a Director is to teach the student FIRST and the musician SECOND. These students are the next generation, not all of them will be musicians but I have the unique opportunity to have your kids for three of the most imperative years of their lives. Part of my promise to you and your kids is that I will help form work habits and teach kids how to conduct themselves during these three years.

WORK HABITS:

E = Excellent S = Satisfactory N = Needs improvement U = Unsatisfactory

This grade is based on a student's level of class participation and completion of assignments/practice charts. It is, however, somewhat subjective based on the student's attitude and level of cooperation in class.

CONDUCT: E = Excellent S = Satisfactory N = Needs improvement U = Unsatisfactory

This grade is based on a student's adherence to class procedures and expectations, which are outlined below.

Band Rules

Personal Conduct Rules

It is the right of every student musician to learn. These rules are designed to protect this right and facilitate the learning experience:

1. Always follow directions. Have a pencil on your stand to make notes to help you.
2. Raise your hand when you wish to speak and wait for your director to call on you.
3. Show proper respect to people and property.
4. Be seated with your instrument and music immediately.
5. Never play your instrument unless your director asks you to do so.
6. No food, gum, drinks (including water) are to be consumed in the band room.

Equipment rules

Your family and our school system have invested large sums of money in musical instruments and equipment. These rules apply regarding instruments/equipment.

1. Do not touch anyone's instrument except your own.
2. All equipment is to be properly put away after class every day.
3. Reed instruments are to be swabbed out and reeds removed from the mouthpiece after each practice session. Failure to do so not only shortens reed life, it creates a warm, moist breeding ground for bacteria. YUCK!
4. Always put your instrument in the appropriate storage area when not in use. Do not "hang out" in storage areas.
5. Please do not lean on or write on a music stand. They easily break.
6. Keep your instrument in perfect working condition. Let a repair technician check it out for you once or twice a year. Many small problems are not noticeable to a young player but can make the instrument difficult to play or make it play out of tune.
7. Instrument, band notebook, method books and pencil are required for class everyday. If an instrument must be repaired, bring a completed excuse form from a parent on the first or second day affected stating where it is being repaired. Make sure to bring your mouthpiece and materials to class anyway so you can continue learning and earning your participation grade.

Music Rules

1. Always write your full name in pencil in the upper portion of your papers.
2. Mark your name on the outside cover of your books with permanent marker.
3. Keep your music, books and any handout material in your band notebook as instructed. Do not fold or leave in your locker, at home, or in the band room.
4. Do not keep music or books in your instrument case! It bends the rods.
5. You are responsible for your music. Take good care of it.

Discipline Process

Students have chosen to be in the Band. Minimal discipline should be necessary and most students will truly enjoy the learning experience of band. Our students generally take great pride and excitement in learning musical concepts and gaining the ability to play an instrument. Rule infractions will be dealt with on an individual basis. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior will be dealt with based on its severity and frequency.

Possible consequences include isolation, parent phone call, detention, parent/teacher conference, parent /teacher/administrator conference, and (in extreme cases) possible removal from the band.

Materials needed

1. Instrument in good working order!
2. Books: Available on amazon/Musical Innovations
6th grade- Habits for Successful Beginning Band Musician
7th/8th grade- Habits for a Successful Middle School Musician
3. Three ring hard sided binder with pockets and clear cover sleeve.
4. Pencil and highlighter- Every day!
5. Metronome/Tuner: All students should own a combination tuner/metronome.
6. Instrument Supplies:
 - Flutes - Cotton handkerchief, polishing cloth, tuning rod
 - Clarinets - 3 good reeds daily! (HIGHLY recommended Juno size 2.5 for 6th grade, VanDoren Classic size 2.5 for 7th graders & size 3 for 8th graders), Hanky Swab, reed guard
 - Saxes -3 good reeds daily! (HIGHLY recommended Juno size 2.5 for 6th grade, VanDoren Classic size 2.5 for 7th graders & size 3 for 8th graders), cloth swab, reed guard, sturdy neck strap, ligature, and mouthpiece.
 - Trumpet - valve oil, tuning slide grease, cleaning "snake"(for home use), mouthpiece brush
 - Horn - rotary oil, tuning slide grease, cleaning "snake"(for home use), mouthpiece brush
 - Trombone - Slide oil (yes, it matters) or Slide-o-mix (best stuff), tuning slide grease, cleaning "snake" (for home use), and mouthpiece brush
 - Tuba-Valve Oil, mouthpiece,

Classroom Information Cont'd

School Owned Instruments

Johnakin Middle School owns some of the instruments that are either excessively large or over \$1500 in cost. These instruments all just got repaired. Students assigned school instruments are assessed a \$50.00 fee per year to be applied toward annual maintenance and repairs. Specific forms will be sent home with those students.

Students need to furnish their own mouthpieces, reeds, valve oil, cork grease, etc. for school owned instruments. Students with larger instruments will be assigned a "home" and a "school" instrument. The "school" one will be shared with other classes. Get some sort of carrying case for personal items to bring back and forth each day – do not, under any circumstances, leave your mouthpiece/reeds/ etc. in the school case.

If you play a smaller school instrument, you may leave your belongings in the case. The maintenance fee is not "license to destroy." Any necessary repairs beyond normal wear and tear are the responsibility of the student to whom the instrument is checked out.

Instrument Security and Storage

Before bringing your instrument to school:

1. Ensure your instrument. Most stores have this as an add-on option while you are renting.

Despite the sizable deductibles on homeowners or renters insurance policies, it is still worthwhile to list a musical instrument on your policy. List its value as the total replacement cost or the buy-out cost of your rental contract.

2. Have a copy of the brand name and serial number of your instrument at home. That is the only positive way to identify your instrument.

3. Put a name-tag on the inside and outside of your instrument case. Include name, address, phone number, bus number, and homeroom teacher name. I will give you a JMS Band Tag to put on your case. Look carefully when picking it up. It's really easy for an instrument to go home with the wrong person.

When bringing your instrument to school:

1. Instruments may be left in the band room storage area during the school day.

2. If your instrument will be stored in the band room, you may bring it there first thing in the morning.

3. For the security of everyone's instruments, do not bring other students into the band room.

4. Place your instrument in the storage room so as to allow the maximum number of instruments to be stored in the room.

5. Students caught using or tampering with others' instruments will be referred to an administrator.

6. Take your instrument home every night. The school is not liable for theft or damage to your Instrument.

What to do if your instrument is "lost"

1. Try to remember where you last had your instrument; retrace your steps.
 - a. Check with your homeroom teacher
 - b. Check in the office to see if it was turned in.
 - c. Check with your bus driver or the county transportation office.
 - d. Check with your last period teacher.
 - e. Check at home or the trunk of your car.
 - f. Check with Ms. Tepedino
 - g. Thoroughly recheck all shelves in the storage room.
 - h. Don't panic! Usually your instrument will turn up in one of these places.

Until you have exhausted all these possibilities I cannot consider the instrument lost.

2. Sometimes the "lost" instrument will magically reappear the next day. How? Too many cases look alike and someone took home the wrong one! Label your case!
3. If your instrument isn't located in a day or two, your parents need to file a police report and their private insurance claim. Make sure you can provide them with the brand name and serial number of your instrument.

Instrument Care Tips

The most frustrating experience for the student, teacher, and parent is an instrument that is constantly going back and forth to the repair shop. Usually the real problem is not being able to communicate to your repair tech the type of problem your child is experiencing when playing the instrument. Here are some tips regarding instrument care and repair intended to take the "Murphy's Law" out of instrument servicing.

1. Never try to pull a stuck mouthpiece or slide with pliers. I have a special tool called a mouthpiece puller at school. If I cannot get it out with the mouthpiece puller it needs to be repaired by a professional.
2. Never store anything other than the instrument and necessary supplies inside the case. Loose mouthpieces, music books or folders, music stands, etc. can do major damage when stored carelessly inside your case. Saxophonists MUST place the end plug into the body of the instrument each time it is put in the case to prevent damage to the octave key.
3. Before leaving an instrument at the music store, have your child or Ms. Tepedino write a short note explaining the problem. Never leave the instrument for repair with just a vague description of the problem ("it squeaks").
4. Have your student go with you to pick up the instrument. Play the instrument before leaving the store to be sure it is really fixed. If the problem was due to your student mistreating the instrument he/she needs to know exactly what action caused the problem so it won't happen again.
5. If the repair is done by the music store where you are renting your student's instrument, ask for a loaner instrument while yours is being repaired. In most repair plans this is covered during the duration of the repair.
6. Most repairs should not take more than 7-10 business days. If you are getting poor service let me know so that I can try to intercede and help resolve the problem.
7. Be sure your student's music and method books don't go to the repair shop with the instrument!

Instrument Repair

There are two options for repair shops that I recommend:

1. Musical Innovations in Greenville: 150G Tanner Rd. Greenville, SC 29607. Tel:

864-286-8742 Instruments are picked up at the school and repaired in Greenville then brought back to the school. Turn around for instruments are said to be 7-10 business days but usually it's less. Just tell Ms. Tepedino when you need it to go to the shop.

<https://www.musicalinnovations.biz>

2. Music Depot in Florence: 1307 2nd Loop Rd. STE C Florence, SC 29505. Tel:

843-407-0226. This is a local repair shop. You are responsible for dropping off the instrument and picking up the instrument.

<https://www.musicaldepot.net>

3. Full Scale Band & Orchestra-3901 Dick Pond Rd Unit J Myrtle Beach, SC 29588 Tel:
843-668-2612

fullscalemusic.net

Private Lessons

Private study on any musical instrument is worthwhile only when the student is willing to practice regularly. The best private teacher cannot fix poor tone or weak rhythmic skills if the student makes no effort to apply the suggestions made. Your child will make a great deal of improvement when practice is done conscientiously over the course of the year. Do not expect big leaps in your child's ability after just one or two lessons. Do expect good teacher-student rapport and music and exercises appropriate to your child's age and playing experience. Tell the teacher what you are hearing at home-start-stop, lack of range, etc. Sometimes children do not know how to put their practice problems into words at their lessons.

Tell your student's teacher ahead of time about extra playing opportunities in which you might want him/her to participate (church solos, all-state, solo/ensemble, etc.). Expect to pay about \$20 per half hour lesson.

Music stores often have a staff of private teachers. However, if you are spending the money to provide private instruction for your student, make sure the teacher is a specialist on the particular instrument--e.g. someone who is an expert on trumpet rather than a teacher of all brass instruments.

Music Stores, Academies, Community Schools Teaching Private Lessons

Music Depot and Francis Marion University are two places I would start looking for private lessons. Please contact Ms. Tepedino if you have trouble finding a teacher.

All-State Band Audition Requirements

All-Region and All-State audition requirements can be found and printed at the South Carolina Music Educators' Association website: www.scbda.org .

Wind Instruments- Students will be given one copy of both the scale sheets and etude sheets. After this scale sheets and etudes are available to print out. Wind instruments will play the scales and arpeggios from the SCBDA website, a chromatic scale, terms and two sight-reading exercises.

Percussion-Percussionists will try out on snare, mallets, and timpani. In addition to the required etudes:

Snare- Rudiments, and solo

Mallets- Scales and Chromatic scale

Timpani - Tune drums to pitches needed for the sight-reading example

*Percussionists will sight read on all three instruments.

JMS Band Calendar of Events

Pep Band- KICK OFF Aug 10 Afterschool

Concert Band-

Halloween Concert- October 18th

Rehearsals-

Christmas Concert- December 15th

Rehearsals- TBD

Spring Concert- May 11th

Rehearsals- TBD

Concert Performance Assessment- March 21-23 (Exact day TBD)

Rehearsals- Start in JANUARY all rehearsals are MANDATORY

Fundraising-

PJs Fruit-Fall

2nd fundraiser is TBD

If you would like to be added to a list of parents that can help out during the school year with chaperoning, or fundraising please let me know by filling out the form below.

Johnakin Middle School Band
Parent/Guardian Volunteer Form

Student Name: _____ Instrument: _____

Parents Name(s): _____

Contact Information: Parent Daytime phone: _____ Evening Phone:

Mobile phone: _____ Text Messaging Yes No

Parent E-mail Address: _____

What is the best way to contact you: _____

Thank you for your willingness to serve so that JMS can be the BEST BAND possible in 2022-2023

In the space below, please give us your ideas about fundraising. Please make sure that they are ideas that you will be willing to assist with. If you would be willing to head up a particular fund raising event – please tell us that as well.

Johnakin Middle School Band Commitment Form 2022-23

I, _____, having been chosen to be a member of the Johnakin Middle School Band Program, do hereby agree to fulfill any obligations of an Johnakin Band Member for the 2022-23 school year. This includes participating in all scheduled rehearsals and performances, fulfilling all responsibilities, as well as abiding by the rules and regulations of the Johnakin Middle School Band. I understand that failure to complete my obligation to the band program will cause me to forfeit my present and future membership and can result in the lowering of my grade.

Student signature _____

Instrument: _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

School District of Marion County 719 N. Main Street

Permission to Participate

School: Johnakin Middle School Address: 601 Gurley Street

Student Name: _____

Event: All Band Activities for the 2022-23 school year.

Dates: July 2022- July 2023

Method of Transportation: School buses, Activity Buses, or Charter buses

