

Blair Middle School Band



Student Handbook

Band Director, Mrs. Jones

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Band Website: <http://blairmsband.weebly.com>

Grading Policies

Each student's grade is determined through earning points in four areas of evaluation:

Performance Assessment	40% of total grade
Musical Disciplines	25% of total grade
Technical Skill	25% of total grade
Written Assessment	10% of total grade

Performance Assessment

Performance attendance is **mandatory** and counts for 40% of your child's overall band grade. *If your child will not be able to attend performances and after school rehearsals then you should consider a different elective class for your child. Mandatory after school rehearsals will only be scheduled on days that bus transportation can be provided by Norfolk Public Schools. Transportation to performances is NOT provided and any problems should be resolved prior to the performance so that the student may be in attendance and receive a grade. All absences will be considered unexcused (unforeseen emergencies excepted) unless written notice is submitted and approved no less than one week prior to the performance. An alternate assignment for partial credit will be given for excused performance absences. ALL students are to remain for the entire performance. Each student's performance grade begins when he/she enters the band room, and ends at the conclusion of the entire concert, including cleanup and tear down of concert setup.

-If the student or parent discover they have a conflict with a scheduled rehearsal date due to a student's sport game, doctor appointment, or are absent from school due to illness, please contact Mrs. Jones as soon as possible so that a make-up date can be arranged.

-If student athletes have a practice after school the same day as a scheduled rehearsal, students can split their time between the rehearsal and practice, after speaking with Mrs. Jones and their coach. I.E. 3-4pm-rehearse with Band and 4-5pm practice with sports team.

Concert Dress for Performance

- Blair Middle School Band Polo (\$15) – **(Field Trips and 6th Grade)**
 - Intermediate & Advanced band students will also need a plain white, long sleeved, button-down, collared dress shirt. **(Formal performances.)**
 - Solid black dress slacks (ladies may wear a solid black skirt of appropriate length)
 - Solid black dress shoes and socks
- *** Contact the band director if you have any problems acquiring any portion of the Blair Band uniform in advance of performances

Musical Disciplines

Daily Participation

Aspects of the Daily Participation category include developing the student's interpersonal skills (the ability to work with others), the ability to follow rules, and working toward deadlines. If a student does not bring his/her instrument to class, and does not have a note from a parent describing an excusable circumstance, the highest grade the student will receive in the category of Daily Participation for that day will be 60% if they complete their alternative assignment for the day. Points will not be deducted from a student's participation grade while their instrument is being repaired.

****Here are some helpful tips for receiving 100% Daily Participation for each class:**

- Participating to the best of your ability and respecting classroom rules and procedures. (50 pts)
- Coming to class on time with all required materials (instrument, band binder and pencil) (25 pts) Students lose the most points in this category, tardiness will not be tolerated and you will lose points every day if you are late without a pass from a teacher.
- Daily warm up and exit ticket (25 pts)

Forgotten Instruments

- Students that forget their instrument are expected to complete an alternative assignment and write for the entire instructional bell.
- Second offense: Parent Contact
- Third Offense: Detention and Parent Contact
- Students that refuse to play an instrument in band will fail the elective and are encouraged to choose another course of study.
- After long breaks (spring break, winter break) students are unsure of the bell schedule when we return to classes, please bring your instrument on the day we return from breaks to ensure we are able to review and continue with instruction.

At Home Practice

Every student is strongly encouraged to practice at home regularly. **Students who do not wish to practice regularly should consider another elective course. Parents that will not allow their children to practice at home should consider putting their child in a different elective course.** The minimum assignment for home practice is any total of 80 minutes per week. Practice records have been eliminated and will be replaced with bi-weekly playing tests on musical repertoire and technical exercises chosen by the director.

Technical Skill

Playing Tests

Evaluations of each student's progress on his/her instrument will be given in the form of playing tests. Some playing tests will be selected from the band method book and some playing tests will be taken from specific musical selections that we will be working on in class. Students will perform playing tests during class in front of their peers, on the computer assisted Smart Music software program, at home if you have purchased Smart Music, or before/after school with permission from the band director. Students must complete at least one playing test every two weeks. If a student refuses to play their playing test their grade for the test will default to zero until they make up the grade.

Missed playing tests will cause your child to fail the elective.

Written Tests

Periodic evaluations of each student's comprehension of various musical concepts and terminology will be given in the form of written tests and daily warm ups. These evaluations may be announced or unannounced and will be varied in length and design. As with any writing in band class, all written tests must be done in pencil.

Written Assessment

Classwork/Writing

Each student will need a notebook **or** a ½" – 1" three-ring binder with loose-leaf paper. Norfolk Public Schools is committed to providing powerful literacy for all students in all subject areas.

Quizzes will also be placed in this category. Like written tests, these evaluations may be announced or unannounced.

Extra Credit

Extra Credit will be given for the following:

- Attend a related instrumental music performance and write a brief summary
- Participation in District II Band
- Participation in All-City Band
- Write a review on articles found in a music journal
- Write a review of a book checked out of the library on a music related subject

Class Materials

(REQUIRED FOR EVERY CLASS)

1. Instrument
2. PENCIL
3. Notebook or three-ring binder with loose leaf paper
4. Music
5. Textbook – *Standard of Excellence* or *Sound Innovations* (provided)
6. Required instrument supplies

Class Procedures

1. Check the board for daily warm up, schedule and instructions.
2. Put books and all other belongings under your seat or in your cubby.
3. Sharpen your pencil.
4. Put all class materials on your stand.
(Textbook, folder, binder, music & pencil)
5. Begin opening written exercises **before** assembling your instrument.
6. Listen carefully and actively participate in class.
7. At the end of class, clean your instrument inside and out and return it to its case.
8. Return instrument to your assigned location.
9. Remain seated until dismissed.
10. The bell does not dismiss you; wait for directions from Mrs. Jones before leaving the room.

Band Discipline Steps of Consequence

- Three strike rule-warning, seat change, behavior essay.
- If a student has been asked to pack up their instrument for the day due to disrupting the teaching and learning environment, they will be required to complete an alternative assignment until class has concluded.
- If the student cannot complete the alternative assignment in a quiet manner they will be escorted to a partner teacher's classroom for a time out.
- Parent Contact and Detention
- Referral to appropriate grade level dean.

Students represent the **Band** and **Blair Middle School** and should make us proud!
Students not meeting behavioral expectations may not participate in out of school field trips or select performances!

Specific Instrument Supplies

(REQUIRED FOR EVERY CLASS)

Starting this year students will be required to pay a \$5.00 band fee to cover the costs of the required supplies below. Students will not be issued an instrument until they have paid their \$5.00 fee. Woodwind players will receive three reeds when needed throughout the school year that are covered by the \$5.00 fee, after three reeds have been used woodwind students are expected to purchase reeds on their own or from Mrs. Jones for \$1.00. All supplies must be purchased before school, after school or at the start of class.

****Students that provide their own reeds and oil are not expected to pay the band fee.**

****Percussionists do not have to pay the required band fee if they have their own equipment; snare sticks, mallets, snare drum. If students are borrowing equipment from Blair MS or Mrs. Jones they must pay the band fee.**

FLUTE:

Cleaning Swab (\$5.97)
Cleaning Rod (\$4.38)
Soft Cleaning Rag

CLARINET:

Reeds (\$2.00)
Cork Grease (\$1.25)
Cleaning Swab (\$9.97)
Cleaning Rag
Mouthpiece Brush(\$2.45)

SAXOPHONE:

Reeds (\$2.00)
Cork Grease (\$1.25)
Cleaning Swab (\$9.97)
Cleaning Rag
Neck Cleaner

BRASS

Valve/Slide Oil (\$3.77)
Tuning Slide Grease (\$4.58)
Cleaning Rag
Mouthpiece Brush (\$2.45)

PERCUSSION

Percussion Kit (not provided)
Drum Sticks (not provided)
Mallets (not provided)

*Prices shown are for information purposes only, most supplies cost more than \$5.00, therefore the band fee is more than reasonable to keep your child supplied for the year.

What do I need to get started?

1. All students in the Blair Band program will need a 1 inch binder for class handouts, music and, daily warm ups. Used binders will be available for sale in the band room for \$1.00. This is a graded assignment due; **Monday, September 26th or Tuesday, September 27th** depending on the day your child has band.
2. Return your lease and loan form (included at the end of this handbook) and the yearly fee of \$25.00 (students that receive free or reduced lunch will most likely qualify for a fee waiver, but must return the form in order to receive an instrument). Due **Monday, September 26th or Tuesday, September 27th** depending on the day your child has band.
3. Pay your 5.00 band fee for supplies.

4. Return all forms in the handbook: lease and loan, blanket permission slip, photo release form and parent/student contact form. (All forms and handbook will be available online on the band website) <http://blairmsband.weebly.com>

When can I bring my instrument home?

Beginner students often ask “When can I take my instrument home?” Instruments can go home with the student after all of the above mentioned criteria have been met and after students have passed their very first test.

The first playing test is based on the following:

- Ability to assemble the instrument properly without assistance.
- Student can perform the correct embouchure in order to produce a sound.
 - Student can play at least three notes and name them.
- Student can disassemble and clean their instrument without assistance.

Please do not, under any circumstances attempt to repair your child’s instrument. We have specially trained instrument repair technicians that will service your child’s instrument if they bring it to school and there is a problem. Students that own their instruments or that are renting from a music store cannot have their instruments repaired through NPS, you must take the instrument to the store it was purchased or rented for repairs.

AWARDS

Awards are given to students at the end of the school year for the following achievements:

1. Memorizing required major and chromatic scales
2. Completion of the Playing tests in the curriculum.
3. Participation in All-City Band
4. Participation in District II Honor Band
5. Superior rating at Solo & Ensemble

Field Trips

Students in the Blair Band program are very fortunate to be offered many field trips throughout the year. Some field trips require students to play their instruments and all field trips require students to be on their best behavior. Students that have been suspended will not be permitted to participate in band field trips. Students that cannot perform their music to the standard required will not be permitted to participate in performance field trips. Students that are missing numerous playing tests and who are failing the band elective will not be permitted to attend field trips with the Blair Band.

REMINDER

Due to the number of students we have in our program, any money turned in for field trips, fund raisers, etc. must be in a sealed envelope with the child's name and amount written on the front, money should be turned in at the beginning of the school day before the bell rings.



More Ways Parents Can Help!

Teaching a child is a collective team effort. Parents/Guardians are certainly a vital part of this team. It is important that the child be made aware that his/her musical endeavors bring a great sense of pride and joy to you. When a child is made aware of this, he/she feels more compelled to strive for excellence. Below is a list of a few ways you can show your child that you support his/her choice to learn how to play a musical instrument.

At Home:

- Show an interest in your child's study of music.
- Arrange a regular time for him/her to practice.
- Provide a quiet place where your child may practice without interruptions (especially radio and TV).
- Help your child keep a daily record of his/her practicing.
- Provide your child with a safe place to store his/her instrument at home.
- Be extremely careful of school-owned instruments. The cost of repairs is very high.
- Teach your child to be on time to rehearsals and performances.
- Encourage him/her to play for others as opportunities arise in the home, in the school, and in the community.
- Be patient and encouraging with your child's musical progress.

At School

- Make sure your child has all materials and supplies before he/she leaves to go to school.
- Discuss with the band director anything that might help her understand your child (extreme sensitivities, learning disabilities, etc.).
- Attend performances and other band activities.

If you would like to be a chaperone and/or assist with fundraisers throughout the year please return the chaperone post card at the end of the handbook and return it promptly to Mrs. Jones. Parents that would like to chaperone should also visit the Norfolk Public Schools web page and fill out the required forms for volunteering in our schools.

The link is as follows: https://www.nps.k12.va.us/Aplus/add_volunteer_nps.php

DONATIONS FOR BLAIR MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

Your donation to our program is not only tax-deductible, but it will also help many of students in need who are not able to afford some of the items below!

Classroom items needed:

With over 125 students in the Band program at Blair, we **really need** donations throughout the school year of: Tissues, Dry Erase Markers, Pencils, Pens and Highlighters, binders, combination locks, hand sanitizer.

Band Instruments Needed:

Is there a flute, clarinet, trumpet or snare drum collecting dust somewhere in your home? Donate an instrument to a very hardworking, musically talented Blair Middle School Band student! Your tax-deductible instrument donation can enable a student to participate in our instrumental music program!!

Clothing Needed:

Many of our Blair students are in need of lightly used concert attire- These items could just be sitting at home in the back of closet, clothes at home that no longer fit a growing child or you could just swing by a local Thrift store to help our students in need.



General Information

Obtaining an Instrument

1. The best option is to rent from a local music store. Rental rates are reasonable, and all payments may be applied toward the eventual purchase of the instrument.
2. Purchasing a new or slightly used instrument or using a family-owned instrument in good playing condition are other options to consider. Seek the advice of a professional to make sure you are purchasing a quality instrument.
3. Your final option is to lease an instrument from the school. The cost of leasing a school-owned instrument is \$25 for the school year. Instrument supplies are limited, and the quality, appearance and sanitary conditions will not rival those of an instrument from a local music store.

Private Lessons

Private music lessons are not a requirement of the Blair Middle School Band program; however, students who do invest in lessons usually excel tremendously. Please let me know if you are interested in purchasing private lessons for your child.

LOCAL SOURCES FOR RENTAL OR PURCHASE OF INSTRUMENTS

Music & Arts Center

5244 B Providence Road
Va. Beach
495-0988

1412 Greenbrier Pkwy.
Chesapeake
366-0666

829 Lynnhaven Pkwy.
Va. Beach
431-9300

Calamas Music
955 B West 21st Street
Norfolk (Ghent)
622-2148

Ego Music
2173 Upton Dr. #301
Virginia Beach
563-9001

Russell's Music World
504 Washington Park
Norfolk
622-5568

BLAIR MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

In order for any class to be successful, it must implement certain rules and guidelines. Below is a list of such guidelines that will ensure a productive and meaningful music experience. Students and parents are asked to read this form carefully, sign it, and return it to Band class promptly.

1. I will enter the classroom in a mature manner.
2. I will follow directions the first time they are given.
3. I will not bring gum, candy, food or beverages into the classroom.
4. I will play my instrument only when asked to by the band director.
5. I will handle only my instrument. I will not misuse or abuse it in any way.
6. I will treat everyone with respect.
7. I will come to class prepared with all of the necessary materials daily or my grade will be affected.
8. I will always exhibit conduct that is safe toward my classmates, the band director, and myself.
9. I will not leave my seat without the band director's permission.
10. I will keep my hands, feet and other objects to myself.
11. When attending Field Trips, I will conduct myself in the most orderly and mature manner.

Consequences for not complying with this contract

First Offense: Warning

Second Offense: Parent will be contacted

Third Offense: Detention and request for Parent/Teacher Conference

Fourth Offense: Referral

Fifth Offense: Removal from elective.

PLEASE DO NOT SIGN UNTIL YOU HAVE READ THIS BEHAVIOR CONTRACT AND THE ENTIRE BAND STUDENT HANDBOOK.

STUDENT: I have read the Behavior Contract and the Band Student Handbook. I understand the consequences that will occur if I do not behave according to the contract and the guidelines set forth in the handbook.

Student's Signature _____ Date: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN: I have read the above contract and the Band Student Handbook. I will take an active part in my child's musical education and will see to it that he/she abides by the rules and guidelines set forth in this contract.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

Band Student and Parent Contact Information

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Phone Number(s):

Parent Email:

(please print as clearly as possible, this will be the most used form of communication for Blair MS Band)

Sometimes our performances are used for promotional purposes for our band program and for Norfolk Public Schools. Do you give consent for your child to appear on Video and or in pictures in relation to the Blair Middle School Band Program?

_____ Yes

_____ No

Would you like to serve as a chaperone for one of our many field trips this year?

_____ Yes _____ No

Would you like to volunteer to help with fundraisers and/or concerts?

_____ Yes _____ No

Please return this section of the handbook signed and completed to Mrs. Jones for a homework grade by **Monday, September 26th, 2016.**



BAND INSTRUMENT LEASE & LOAN AGREEMENT

On behalf of my child, I apply for the use of the following musical instrument and agree to these conditions.

1. This instrument is to be used **ONLY** in the instrumental music program of the Norfolk Public Schools and home practice.
2. I will make every effort to assure the proper care and use of this instrument, and agree to reimburse the Norfolk Public School Board for the repair cost or the full replacement value of an instrument and/or case where damaged beyond repair, neglected or abused, lost or stolen.
3. Failure to meet the financial liabilities described in No. 2 will result in the record of this obligation being placed in the student's permanent file. Eligibility for further use of school instruments and membership in the organization may be denied. Legal collection of the debt will ensue.
4. All necessary repairs will be processed through the music teacher and no repairs resulting from normal wear will be charged to the user.
5. The music teacher has the authority to recall the instrument at any time where there is evidence of its being misused.
6. I agree to have the instrument and case with all accessories returned immediately if the student withdraws or is dismissed from the music program for any reason.
7. I agree to have the instrument and case with all accessories returned promptly at the end of the school term.
8. Any pre-existing damage to the case or instrument to be issued is noted on the reverse side of this form if it is checked here.

9. If the instrument or case is lost or stolen, I agree to report this immediately to the music teacher who will in turn notify the school principal.
10. No instrument will be issued until this form is completed and returned.
11. The annual rental fee of **\$25.00** is non-refundable and will not be prorated for early returns. ***Families that qualify for public assistance may apply for fee waiver.***

(Over

Student:		Instrument:	
Date:	20	Serial #:	Make:

-A-

(Top portion for school use only)

Paid \$____ Waive ____ NC

20____
Date of Issue

20____
Date of Return

School

Director's Signature

Noted Condition/Damages (issued)

Noted Condition/Damages (returned)

Students who are receiving public assistance in the form of aid to dependent children, general relief, supplemental security income or foster care qualify for indigent status (State Code 22.1-251). *The Social Services Bureau must confirm the student's status in writing.* (Parent/guardian receives a statement from Social Services which will verify status.)

(CHECK HERE IF APPROPRIATE):

I receive public assistance and hereby apply for my child to use the above instrument with the \$25.00 fee waived.

Date: _____ Yes ____ No ____ Status verified: _____
Principal's Signature

I certify I have read this document and agree to the conditions as described.

Date	Signature of Parent or Guardian	Phone
	Address	Zip

