

Monroe Township Middle School
2018-2019
Band Handbook



2018-2019 MTMS Band Calendar

Winter Concerts

December 4th, 2018: *6th Grade Concert Bands*
6th Grade Jazz Ensemble

December 18th, 2018: *7th and 8th Grade Jazz Ensembles*
6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Percussion Ensembles

January 10th, 2019: *7th and 8th Grade Concert Bands*

Spring Concerts

May 7th, 2019: *6th Grade Concert Bands*
6th Grade Jazz Ensemble

May 9th, 2019: *7th and 8th Grade Concert Bands*

May 14th, 2019: *7th and 8th Grade Jazz Ensembles*
6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Percussion Ensembles

Music in the Parks Trips

May 17th, 2019: *6th Grade Music Department, Six Flags Great Adventure*

June 7th, 2019: *7th and 8th Grade Music Department, Dorney Park*

Please check your emails and the MTMS website frequently for additions and updates to the schedule.

Zero Period Rehearsals

Zero period rehearsals are **mandatory** for all band members and a non-optional component of the band elective. If you will be present for the school day, it is expected that you will attend your ensemble's zero period rehearsal. Student drop-off is between 7:10 and 7:15 AM at the **back** entrance to the school. Students are to be seated and ready to play at **7:20 AM** either on the PAC stage, band room, or chorus room.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6th Grade Bands (Overture and Fanfare)	7th Grade Band	8th Grade Band	6th Grade Bands (Overture and Fanfare)	Falcon Jazz Ensemble
Wind Ensemble & Chamber Music (every other week)			6th Grade Percussion Ensemble	Gold Jazz Ensemble
			Falcon Jazz Ensemble Sectionals (every other week)	Purple Jazz Ensemble

Should a zero period rehearsal be moved or cancelled, students and parents will be notified a week in advance.

The Wind Ensemble & Chamber Music noted on Mondays will be announced at the beginning of October - auditions are open to students in grades 7 and 8, and we will determine if we will move forward with a select Wind Ensemble, Chamber Groups, or both!

Grading Policies

7th and 8th Grade Bands

30% - Ensemble Skills, Rehearsal/Lesson Participation, and Preparedness

As a member of the MTMS bands, it is required that you attend and fully participate in all lessons and rehearsals if you are present in school that day. It is also expected that all students come to the band room fully prepared with all required materials (see below). Actively engaging in lessons and rehearsals is critical to the success of the ensemble. This includes showing steady improvement throughout the year, participating with a good attitude, and exhibiting excellent musicianship and behavior. Unannounced pencil checks and folder checks will also contribute to this portion of the grade.

20% - Assignments and Self-Assessed Lessons

Various assignments will be given out throughout the year. These may include: at-home and in-class listening assignments, self-assessed lessons, and small group performances.

25% - Musicianship and Individual Playing Assessments

Students will complete playing assessments throughout the year consisting of assigned scales, sight reading, and assigned portions of our concert repertoire. These will occur once per marking period. Also once or twice per marking period, we will have unannounced scale or sight reading quizzes. This can happen at any point, so always be practicing! Your musicianship will be critiqued using a rubric broken down into five sections – Tone quality, intonation, rhythm, technique, and musicality.

25% - Graded Concerts/Performance

As a member of the MTMS bands, it is required that you attend all concerts. Performances are the culmination of the hard work we put in during school and each musician's presence is extremely crucial to a successful concert. Mark these dates ASAP upon receiving the MTMS Band calendar. Excusal from a performance may only be granted for medical or family emergencies, or other extenuating circumstances, approved by Ms. Palmer. These need to be sent in writing as soon as the situation arises. Students will also complete reflective assignments following concerts that will be graded.

6th Grade Band

All students will begin the school year with 100 points (100%). Points may be deducted for the following reasons:

- 1) A student is unprepared for a rehearsal or lesson, including forgetting their instrument, music, or reeds and not practicing assigned material (**minus one point**).
- 2) A student misses a lesson without previous notice (**minus two points**). An example of previous notice would be a teacher-signed excuse form.
- 3) A student misses a zero period rehearsal without previous notice (**minus two points**). An example of previous notice would be a note or email from a parent.

Music in the Parks

This year's 6th grade Music in the Parks trip will be held on May 17th, 2019. The 6th grade chorus and bands will travel to Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, New Jersey. More information will be provided as the year progresses. Note that you must be in good academic standing in band, holding an average of **88 or higher**, and regularly attend lessons in order to participate in this trip.

This year's 7th and 8th grade Music in the Parks trip will be held on June 7th, 2019. The 7th and 8th grade choruses and bands will travel to Dorney Park in Allentown, Pennsylvania. More information will be provided as the year progresses. Note that you must be in good academic standing in band, holding an average of **82 or higher**, and regularly attend lessons in order to participate in this trip.

Concert Attire

Note: school dress code applies at all times.

7th and 8th Grade

Concert Band, Gold Jazz Ensemble, and Percussion Ensembles

Girls: White blouse and black dress pants. Black socks (if needed). Black shoes.

Boys: White button-down dress shirt with a solid color tie and black dress pants. Black socks. Black shoes.

Falcon Jazz Ensemble

Girls: Black blouse and black dress pants. Black socks (if needed). Black shoes.

Boys: Black button-down dress shirt with a purple or gold tie and black dress pants. Black socks. Black shoes.

6th Grade

Concert Bands and Percussion Ensemble

Girls: White blouse and black dress pants. Black socks (if needed). Black shoes.

Boys: White button-down dress shirt with a solid color tie and black dress pants. Black socks. Black shoes.

Purple Jazz Ensemble

All: Purple polo shirts and black dress pants. Black socks. Black shoes.

Required Materials

All students are required to bring the following to every lesson and rehearsal:

- Instrument in working condition
- Pencil
- Folder and music

Woodwinds

All woodwind players are expected to have:

- Reeds- NOTE: MTMS will **NOT** provide reeds; you are required to purchase your own. 2-3 boxes are a good place to start. Recommended brands are VanDoren and Rico Royal. It is expected that you have at least **FOUR** good, functional reeds at all times, although it is recommended that you always have a box on hand. Please visit the NEMC website to purchase online: <https://www.nemc.com>
- Mouthpiece and ligature
- Cloth swab
- Cork grease
- Reed case or guard

Brass

All brass players are expected to have:

- Mouthpiece
- Valve/Rotor oil
- Tuning slide grease (slide cream and spray bottle for trombones)
- Cleaning snake
- Mutes as needed for music

Percussion

All percussionists are expected to have:

- A copy of *Modern Etudes and Studies for the Total Percussionist*. All percussion playing quizzes and tests will come from this book.
- Mike Balter 22B marimba mallets (greens).
- Snare drum sticks; if you do not have a pair already, get Vic Firth SD1.
- Highly recommended- a pair of Malletech BB34 xylophone/bell mallets.

**See Mr. Snyder with any questions on attentional or accessory percussion materials.

School-Owned Instruments

Students who require a school-owned instrument must complete and submit a sign-out form with a parent signature. These instruments are owned by MTMS and must be taken care of as if it is your own. Please report any issues with your school-owned instrument as soon as possible.

Basic Rules and Procedures

During all full rehearsals and group lessons, students are expected to:

- 1) Be respectful of their peers and teachers at all times.
- 2) Listen and be quiet when other sections are rehearsing.
- 3) Raise their hand when a question or need arises.
- 4) Always strive to improve and give their maximum effort.

Additional Performance Opportunities

It is highly recommended that students seek additional performance opportunities outside of school ensembles. The Central Jersey Music Educators Association (CJMEA) region ensembles are a wonderful way to gain audition experience and to play outside of school. In addition, several youth orchestras in the area accept middle school wind players. Your director will announce and post information regarding these extra opportunities frequently.

Private Lessons

It is highly recommended that students study their instrument with a private teacher outside of school. Private lessons allow narrow focus on specific skills that will allow a student to grow and improve tremendously. Your director will have an extensive list of private teachers available to you upon request.

Acknowledgement of Handbook

A digital copy of this handbook and an online contract will be available in the near future. Electronically signing the contract represents both the student and parent(s) have reviewed and understood the handbook, acknowledged all commitment dates on the calendar, and are committed to be a member of the band for the entire school year. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you need clarification or have additional questions. The deadline for signing the contract is **October 11th** and parents will receive an email when these items are available online.

Instructor Contact Info

Ms. Megan Alexander

megan.alexander@monroe.k12.nj.us

6th Grade Bands

Gold Jazz Ensemble

Low Brass and Trumpet Instructor

Ms. Rebecca Palmer

rebecca.palmer@monroe.k12.nj.us

7th Grade Band

8th Grade Band

Falcon Jazz Ensemble

Mr. David Rattner

david.rattner@monroe.k12.nj.us

6th Grade Bands

Purple Jazz Ensemble

Trumpet and Clarinet Instructor