

# Decatur Middle School

## 2017-2018 6TH GRADE BEGINNING BAND HANDBOOK

*Mrs. Connie Wicklund, Director of Bands*

Office Phone: (269) 423-6910

Email: cwicklund@raiderpride.org

Class meeting time: 8:15-9:00am

Website: [www.schoolology.com](http://www.schoolology.com) - be sure to sign up!

Facebook: Decatur Bands

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome to the Decatur Band program! I am very excited to have you as a part of the program!

Please take some time to read over the Band Handbook. This will prepare you for your work and responsibilities as a member of the band. If a problem should arise, consult the handbook first. If you still cannot find an answer, please do not hesitate to call or email me.

Students that participate in the Decatur Band Program are challenged to grow musically and encouraged to achieve their highest potential. In order for this to occur, students must respect their director, their fellow musicians, their instruments and supplies, the music they perform, any guests, and all of the work that each person puts into the band.

If you follow the rules as laid out in this handbook as well as in class, your reward will be like nothing you have experienced before. You will feel pride, a sense of accomplishment, self satisfaction, and fun ☺

Mrs. Wicklund's band website will now be on schoolology.com - Decatur's learning management system. I also plan to do most, if not all communication paperless. I'd like to rely on Schoology, Remind, Facebook and email for communication. Be sure to sign up for all of the above communication channels (if possible) so we can be connected and on the same page ☺

Don't forget that Mrs. Wicklund is having a baby! I will be maternity leave until beginning to mid-October. Please note that the long term band substitute is **Ms. Jessica Wallace**. **You may reach her at the same phone number or at [jwallace@raiderpride.org](mailto:jwallace@raiderpride.org) ☺ Contact her FIRST and if she cannot answer your question(s), she will contact me and we will get back to you as soon as possible!** Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

I can't wait to work with you and help you experience the joy of music. Let's make it a fabulous year!

Musically,

Mrs. Connie Wicklund

Again, please do not hesitate to call or email me/Ms. Wallace if you should have any questions. I can get back in a timelier manner with email. ☺

## **I. Course Rationale**

Beginning Band is a **yearlong course and commitment** and is a unique and exciting opportunity to learn a musical instrument and to learn to read music. After the first week of school (when improper schedules are fixed), the student must remain in band for the entirety of the year - we are a team and depend on one another to perform to the best of our ability just like sports teams. Students have the opportunity to begin a lifetime of music learning and enjoyment as a performer as well as a listener. Playing a musical instrument teaches the learner about more than just music. More importantly, it teaches self discipline, accountability, self expression, teamwork, leadership, and problem solving that is easily understood by the 6th grade student.

## **II. Course objectives**

Throughout the school year, beginning band students will learn:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. Proper instrument assembly and care            | i. Beginning rudiments and philosophy for percussionists      |
| b. Correct posture and sound production           | j. Key signatures   |
| c. Correct fingerings, stick grips, and positions | k. Phrasing   |
| d. Proper practice habits                         | l. Independent parts  |
| e. Basic music terminology                        | m. Contrasting tempos and dynamics                            |
| f. Visual and aural instrument identification     | n. Melodic variations   |
| g. Formal and informal concert settings           | o. Articulation   |
| h. Rhythm patterns and time signatures            | p. How to perform in a small ensemble as well as a whole band |

## **III. Required Materials**

These materials are required for class daily:

- Pencil
- Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 (\$10 or \$17 for percussion) \*Provided if renting an instrument
- Instrument (purchased/rented from local music store such as Meyer Music or Marshall Music - no EBay instruments please! You may also use a school instrument with my permission and availability) more information can be found in section V)
- Supplies (cork grease, valve oil, slide grease, spray bottle (trombone), reeds, etc. - Anything required for your instrument to work!)

## **IV. Objectives/Goals**

The student will:

1. Perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Read and notate music.
3. Listen to, analyze, and describe music.
4. Evaluate music and music performances.
5. Understand some basic relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
6. Demonstrate by action, student individual improvement gained by a pursuit of excellence, and contribute that musicianship to the group of which the student is a member.

## V. Obtaining an Instrument

- Renting or purchasing an instrument and maintaining it is an investment, but its benefits last a lifetime. Meyer Music information has been attached for your rental needs. **We will be having an instrument information and rental night on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 @ 6:00pm in the band room! Please mark your calendars! This is the evening of the FIRST DAY ☺**
- If money is an issue, there are a limited amount of school owned instruments for your student to use at **NO cost**. These instruments are a first come, first serve and not all instruments are available. If your student has a serious interest in band and there is not a school instrument for their use, one will be found for their use. A student will never be turned away because the lack of funds. **Please attend the rental meeting even if you need to borrow a school instrument so it can be arranged.**
- The last option is for you to buy an instrument on your own. You can always buy a used instrument rather than a new one as they are more cost effective. If a family member owns an instrument your student wants to use, please have them bring it to Mrs. Wicklund for inspection. Stay clear of Wal-Mart or Meijer instruments as they are low quality and will not last long. EBay is OK but you never know what you are going to get for your money. If you want an opinion, please send the link to Mrs. Wicklund.



Any instrument rented, owned, or borrowed from the school is the student's and parent's responsibility for the entire year. These instruments can be taken home to practice! While at school, an instrument locker will be provided with a combination lock to keep them safe and prevent theft.

## VI. Assessment

The learner will be evaluated by performance on playing tests, written tests & quizzes, performances/concerts, homework, weekly practice records, daily class participation & effort, behavior, and group activities.

## VII. Grading Policies

Final grades will be determined by the following factors each quarter and semester:

1. Daily attendance and active participation in the group, including the amount of effort during participation.
2. Playing tests
3. Written tests over musical terms/symbols and any information relevant to what is currently being studied in class or rehearsals.
4. Other assignments/projects as they become relevant to the material being studied.
5. Musical performances/concerts (there may not be one in every grading period, and some grading periods may have more than one)
6. Weekly practice records, worth 75 points each (due every Monday) - Practice is THAT important!!
7. Bringing ALL needed materials to class DAILY
  - Instrument and all necessary supplies (reed, mouthpiece, cork grease, valve oil, etc.)
  - Band book and music
  - Pencil

8. Students are **REQUIRED** to purchase Essential Elements 2000 band book for their appropriate grade level. The cost is \$10 for woodwind and brass players and \$17 for percussionists. I will order these for the students ☺

### **VIII. Weekly Practice Records**

This is based on an average of approximately 15 minutes per day for 5 days each week, with a goal of 75 minutes each week. Practice records will be completed each Monday **in class** on the surface pro and submitted to schoology for a grade ☺

- Practice records WILL NOT require a parent/guardian signature and must be turned in each week.
- Practice records are due every Monday, but you may turn it in late by Friday of that week with NO PENALTY. If there is no school on Monday, we will complete it on Tuesday ☺
- All practice records for the marking period are due by the LAST DAY of the marking period.

### **IX. Written Tests, Quizzes, Homework, etc. (as needed)**

The amount of total points possible may vary for each assignment.

#### **a. Playing tests**

Students will demonstrate correct performance technique on material they have learned. Playing tests may be given weekly or as needed throughout the school year. Students will be evaluated on musical elements such as tone quality, rhythmic precision, technical accuracy, and musicality. These tests ensure that the students are practicing the most important concepts learned in class, and can demonstrate these concepts accurately. This shows the rate of the student's improvement and understanding of the concepts explained in class. This also informs Mrs. Wicklund what she can help you with! Quizzes and tests are worth 30% of the student's overall grade.

#### **b. Concerts/Performances**

Each student is **REQUIRED** to participate in each concert or performance, and only excused absences will be allowed such as sudden illness, death in the family, family emergency, and weddings. If you **know** you are going to be absent from a performance, please let Mrs. Wicklund know as soon as you find out. A note from the parent/guardian and/or doctor (for illnesses) **MUST** accompany the request to be excused. We may have to train someone else to play your music. Each performance or concert is worth HALF of the student's grade. The points may vary from performance to performance. If a student does not attend a performance and has an unexcused absence, he/she will receive zero points on that performance. A note explaining the absence must be turned in to Mrs. Wicklund **within one week** of the performance in addition to completing "musical community service" (which is explained in the next section) will be required to receive full credit. Students must be professional and positive at all times as they are reflecting and upholding the standards of the school, community, and the fine arts program. **ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY.**

### **X. Performance Dress/Concert Attire**

The concert dress this year is dressy black and white. Please ensure that you have the appropriate clothing necessary BEFORE performances, as it is an important reflection on our group. There will be two concerts - a performance calendar is in this packet ☺

Gentleman: Black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes on the bottom and a white dress shirt or white polo shirt on top. Ladies: Black dress pants or black skirts (knee length or longer), black socks or black

nylons, and black dress shoes on the bottom with a white dress shirt on top (no plunging necklines and must have sleeves). Keep jewelry at a minimum and no perfume as the stage lights tend to amplify and mix all fragrances together. **NO FLIP FLOPS OR TENNIS SHOES ARE ALLOWED.**

## **XI. Participation/Effort**

Your grade is based on the following:

1. Each performance or concert is considered as a major test and will be graded as such - they are worth 100 points and 50% of the overall grade. Therefore, any performance that is missed and NOT excused will receive zero points. A student's grade may be reduced if they do not bring all of their necessary materials or if they do not meet the appropriate concert dress code.
2. Daily participation and effort is extremely important to a successful music program and is 20% of the overall grade. Each student will receive a daily participation/effort grade as follows:
  - a. 5 points - participated with instrument at all times during class, brought all materials to class, behaved very well and followed directions, and put forth an excellent effort in class.
  - b. 4 points - participated most of the time with instrument in class, brought most materials to class, had very few behavioral problems, and put forth a good effort in class.
  - c. 3 points - participated occasionally with instrument in class, brought few materials to class, had some behavioral problems, and put forth less than average effort in class.
  - d. 0 points - no instrument or no materials, didn't participate in class, put forth little or no effort in class, and/or many behavioral problems. No instrument is NO points!
  - e. Individual points will be deducted for misbehavior. Each student starts with 5 points unless they come without their required materials.

## **XII. Student expectations/Behavior Policy**

Students will abide by the policies set forth in the 2017-2018 Raider Handbook as well as the following:

1. No gum, candy, pop, or food is allowed in the classroom at any time. A bottle of water is acceptable.
2. No cellular phones or electronic devices. See policy below in section XIV.
3. Treating your fellow students and instructor with respect is expected at all times.
4. Come to class with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn ☺
5. Follow the band room "Entrance Routine" which is posted in the classroom.
6. You are expected to be in your seat and prepared for class shortly after the bell rings. This means having your instrument and music out and ready to begin.
7. You **MUST** have a pencil **DAILY**.
8. All classroom or student's materials, supplies, and equipment will be treated with care at all times.
9. Be attentive in class and listen to the teacher. DO not talk in class unless your instructor has given you permission.
10. Other rules may be added if the need arises.
11. Leave it better than you found it.

### **XIII. Consequences**

The following is a list of corrective actions to be taken if unacceptable student behavior persists in the classroom (not necessarily in this sequence):

1. The student will be given a verbal warning that the behavior is unacceptable and that more action will occur if the student does not cease the behavior.
2. If possible, the student will be moved elsewhere in the classroom.
3. The student will not receive full grades for behavior/participation for the day/performance.
4. A conference with the parent, teacher, and principal may be scheduled.
5. The student may receive a detention, to be carried out that day or the next day after or before school.
6. The student may be referred to the principal for corrective action.
7. The student may be asked to put away their instrument, losing their participation points for the day, and will sit in a location so as not to be distracting to the rest of the class.
8. Other consequences as deemed appropriate by the teacher as the need arises.
9. Please refer to the 2017-2018 Raider Handbook for tardy/attendance consequences.

### **XIV. Cellular phone/Electronic Device Policy**

Students are not allowed to have cell phones or any electronic device turned on during a rehearsal or performance. Such devices are a distraction and therefore are not to be seen or heard during a rehearsal or performance. Violation of this rule will result in losing the cell phone/device for the rest of the day. Chronic disruptions will result in turning the phone over to DMS Administration. If you have a cell phone at practice or performance, make sure it is turned off. All district policies are in effect during all rehearsals and performances. See the handbook for these details.

### **XV. Beginning Band Schedule**

All beginning band students will meet daily! We will not begin playing and learning instruments until each student has an instrument and all materials needed to be successful ☺

### **XVI. Communication Channels**

I will be using the following services to send out reminders and information regarding concerts, trips, fundraisers, due dates, etc. Please subscribe by phone or computer if possible. Instructions for Remind and Schoology are attached ☺

1. Remind texting app/service
  - a. Remind (app or remind.com) is a service that provides a safe way for teachers to text or email students and parents without having to give out their personal number.
2. Schoology.com - be sure to sign up on the website if you haven't done so
3. Facebook - please add **Decatur Bands** as a friend!
4. Email - be sure to write your address legibly on the handbook agreement form

**Last but certainly not least: Parents are encouraged to consult with/contact ME if questions/concerns arrive concerning grades or behavior! Thank you! ☺**

**DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE INSTRUMENT INFORMATION/RENTAL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 5th @ 6PM (THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL) IN THE BAND ROOM! IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND AND DO NOT HAVE AN INSTRUMENT FOR YOUR STUDENT, PLEASE CONTACT MRS. WICKLUND!**

# 2017/2018 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BEGINNING BAND HANDBOOK

## AGREEMENT & PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION

After reading the handbook, **please fill out, sign and return THIS PAGE ONLY** to Mrs. Wicklund/Ms. Wallace by **Friday, September 8, 2017** ☺ This is one of the **FIRST** grades of the school year ☺

We have read and understand the information in this handbook for 6<sup>th</sup> grade beginning band students. We agree with the information in this handbook, and any questions or concerns that I have with any information in this handbook is explained on the back of this form or I will contact Mrs. Wicklund via phone or email.

Student printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check a box below:

- ☐ We plan to rent an instrument from Meyer Music or obtain rental information
- ☐ We plan buy an instrument/have an instrument already
- ☐ We plan/need to borrow a school instrument

**Parent Contact Information:** Please list the BEST number and email (if applicable) in which you can be reached. Please list ALL relevant numbers/emails if the student goes between parent homes as I like to keep all active parties informed ☺ **Be sure email addresses are legible to eliminate mistakes on my end** ☺

Parent/Guardian Name	Phone Number	Email