

## *Lakeview Middle School Band Handbook*

- I. Band is offered to any 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader who is willing to accept the challenge and capable of spending the time necessary to learn to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument.
  - A. Beginning Band is offered to 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Students are taught fundamentals of reading music and skills necessary to play their particular instrument.
  - B. Intermediate Band is open to 8<sup>th</sup> graders with **one or more years** of school band experience. The director will determine if a student has reached an acceptable level of proficiency for Intermediate Band.
  
- II. Band is a class that meets for five days a week for 44 minutes.
  - A. Students are required to furnish their own instruments, mouthpieces, and supplies. Students playing school owned instruments must furnish their own mouthpieces and supplies.
  - B. Students learn to master the fundamentals necessary to play their particular instrument through the use of technique books, scales, and concert literature.
  - C. Regular playing tests are given on music, scales, and assigned lines from the technique book.
  - D. Make-up tests are given at the discretion of the director.
  - E. Students absent before or on test days are given equal amount of days to make-up the test, provided the absence is excused.
  - F. Students are taught respect for the director, their instrument, and fellow musicians.
  
- III. Home Practice

The Park Hill Band program has been built and is maintained on the philosophy that each student is required to practice a minimum of 20 minutes a day or 140 minutes per week.

  - A. Students are encouraged to take their instruments home each day.

- B. Parents should help the student set a daily schedule for practice and commit to it! Practice discipline is a pre-requisite for success. The student's success is closely linked to how much his/her parents want him/her to succeed.
- C. Practice reports are required for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. (Further details on this to be given.)

#### IV. Rehearsal Procedures

The playing of instruments before rehearsals is confined to soft warm-up and practicing. Loud noise making is not appropriate. Rehearsals will start promptly at the late bell. Anyone reporting after this will be considered tardy. A pencil will be in everyone's possession at each rehearsal.

##### A. Student Demands

1. To maintain good posture at all times.
2. Keep both feet flat on the floor.
3. During rehearsal, talk only when addressed by the director.
4. Be prepared to participate each day. This means bring your instrument, music, pencil, and all necessary equipment.
5. If a student forgets his/her instrument, a note must be brought from home addressing this problem. Such a note ensures that the parents are aware of the situation.
6. Individual instruments are to be **clearly marked** on both ends of the case with the student's name. (Individually owned instruments are usually covered on the family's homeowners' policy. Please check *your* company's policy.)
7. If braces have been tightened or other problems exist that would present a problem playing that day, students are expected to have their instrument out and participate by doing fingerings while the rest of the band plays.

##### B. Music

Each student will be given music for band. There is no charge; however, each student is responsible for the music assigned to him/her. Take care of the music you receive; it is expensive to replace! Students will be required to pay for replacement music. Any writing on the music is to be done in **pencil only**.

- V. Band Trips and Concerts (when/if applicable)
- A. Band members are asked to arrive at *least* 15 minutes before departing time to assure ample time to get equipment loaded.
  - B. Band members are expected to show the highest degree of respect to the bus drivers, chaperones, fellow band members, and directors. Radios, CD players, and excessive yelling are inappropriate for bus trips.
  - C. Band members are expected to exhibit the highest degree of pride and abide by all rules set forth by the Park Hill School District and described in the Lakeview Middle School Student Handbook.
  - D. All band members are required to ride the bus to the performance area. Other arrangements for rides home are permissible, provided a Park Hill School District ACTIVITY TRAVEL RELEASE FORM #3 is given to the director two days in advance. These forms are available from the band director and/or school office.
  - E. All regularly scheduled concert performances will be held at Park Hill South High School
  - F. Excused absences from public performances must follow the guidelines set forth by the Park Hill Band Department, including things such as:
    - 1. Death in the family.
    - 2. Severe illness; student is under doctor's care.
    - 3. Religious observation.
    - 4. Extenuating circumstances (family emergency – **the director must be notified by parent/guardian.**)
  - H. Students missing a concert - *for any reason* - are required to perform their music before receiving a grade. Performance will be for the director.
  - I. Concert attire for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade is All black. Black dress shoes and socks. NO Tennis shoes or jeans of any type are acceptable.
- VI. School Owned Equipment
- A. Some students may be selected to play an instrument that is owned by the school. A yearly maintenance fee of \$100.00 is required for the use of

these instruments. \$50.00 per semester. *Eighth-grade grade percussionists are required to submit a \$100.00 yearly fee for the use of school-owned percussion equipment.*

- B. Instruments available for student use are Bassoons, French Horns, Baritone Horns, and Tubas. Bass clarinets and baritone saxophones are available for eighth-grade students only.
- C. Students using school owned equipment must furnish their own reeds, mouthpieces, valve oil, grease, and other necessary items used to keep the instrument clean.
- D. The school will pay for any wear or repair due to *normal* use only. Parents and students will assume the financial responsibility for loss or damage of any instrument used.
- E. Students and parents are expected to cooperate with the fees and guidelines set forth by the Park Hill School District regarding school-owned equipment. These guidelines are outlined in the Instrument Usage Contract.

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**THE PARK HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM IS DEDICATED TO:  
PROMOTING SELF-DISCIPLINE AND ENTHUSIASTIC ATTITUDES;  
ENCOURAGING RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR AND PROMPTNESS;**

**COMMITMENT** toward preparation for rehearsals and performances, mastering musical fundamentals, progressing consistently, and upholding the traditions of the Park Hill Band Program with **PRIDE AND HONOR!**

**BEING RESPONSIBLE, MAINTAINING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE,  
ES SPRIT DE CORPS, SEEKING PRECISION AND EFFICIENCY!**