

MURPHYSBORO MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS



STUDENT HANDBOOK 2009 – 2010

Mr. Williams, Director of Bands

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Band Office: (618) 684 – 3041, ext. 2224

Band Website: www.bluedevilband.org

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS FOR MMS BAND STUDENTS

1. You are expected to be **PREPARED**. This includes: music, instrument, pencil, positive attitude, and to be in class **ON TIME**. Band rehearsals will begin promptly at 8:00 AM. Attendance will be taken at 8:15 due to the fact that some students ride a later bus. **If you ride a later bus or have a conflict that prevents you from being here at 8:00, it is your responsibility to make Mr. Williams aware of that fact.**

The school's tardy policy will be followed.

- ✓ *All band students who are tardy must sign the tardy folder before taking their seat in rehearsal.*
 - ✓ *If you are counted tardy, you lose half of your daily points for the rehearsal.*
 - ✓ *If you eat breakfast at school in the mornings, you have TEN MINUTES to eat from the time YOU ARRIVE AT SCHOOL. Students need to check in with Mr. Williams to let him know that they are here before they go to breakfast. The monitor in the cafeteria will have a list of all band students.*
2. **CANDY, GUM, FOOD, and DRINKS** are **NOT** allowed in the band room at any time.
 3. School property and the property of others should be respected at all time. This also includes school and privately owned instruments.

If a student fails to meet these expectations, **the following consequences can occur in any order:**

- **Verbal Warning.**
- **Student stays after class for teacher/student conference, loss of daily points.**
- **Student is written up, parents are contacted, loss of daily points.**

Severe offenses (*fighting, inappropriate language, insubordination, etc.*) will be sent immediately to the office. All other policies of Murphysboro Middle School and Murphysboro C.U.S.D. #186 will be enforced at all times.

- **Parents are responsible for providing transportation home following an after school detention.**

GRADING

Each quarter MMS band students will be graded on the following aspects:

PRIVATE LESSONS

ALL MMS BAND STUDENTS will be ***REQUIRED*** to sign up for a weekly lesson. Mr. Williams will issue each student a lesson pass. Students ***MUST NOT LOSE THIS PASS***. They ***WILL NOT*** be allowed out of class without it!

A letter concerning lesson books and expectations will be sent home the first week of school. **Lessons will begin after Apple Festival, starting the week of September 21st.**

PLAYING TESTS

There are potentially two playing tests per quarter: **one announced and one unannounced**. All playing tests cover material studied or assigned in the quarter.

PERFORMANCES

Performances are a vital part of the curriculum. Attendance at all performances and extra rehearsals is **REQUIRED**. Students with excused absences that are not emergency situations must contact Mr. Williams within **ONE** week of the performance. All emergency situations (**see ATTENDANCE POLICY**) will be automatically excused.

SECTIONALS

ALL band students will be required to attend a weekly sectional that will occur on a rotating schedule throughout the week. ***It is extremely essential that students attend their weekly sectional to ensure their progress as an individual musician and to raise the performance level of the band.***

A letter concerning sectionals will also be sent home the first week of school. **Just as with lessons, sectionals will begin after Apple Festival, starting the week of September 21st.**

DAILY GRADE

Students are given 10 points per rehearsal as a daily grade. Loss of half or all of these points can be as a result of the student not being prepared, coming into band tardy, chewing gum during rehearsal, receiving a write-up, etc.....

Remember, you alone EARN your grade in Band!

Your grade will be based on the number of points you earn throughout the quarter, and will be determined by the percentage rubric found below.

GRADE BREAKDOWN per QUARTER:

✓ Playing Tests	100 pts
✓ Performances	50 pts
✓ Lessons	TBA
✓ Sectionals	10 pts
✓ Daily Grade	10 pts per rehearsal
✓ Solo & Ensemble (3 Quarter)	100 pts
✓ Organizational Contest (4 th Quarter)	100 pts

GRADING SCALE:

100% – 90%	=	A
89% – 80%	=	B
79% – 70%	=	C
69% – 60%	=	D
59% – below	=	F

MMS BANDS ATTENDANCE POLICY

As stated earlier, **attendance at all performances and extra rehearsals is required**. The only automatically excused absences are emergency situations: **personal illness, a death in the family, etc...** **Conflicts with sports will be worked out.**

Mr. Williams must be notified **prior to the performance** for any student who is unable to attend. Any student with an unexcused absence from a performance will not receive the points for the performance. The same will apply to an unexcused absence from any after-school rehearsal called.

IMEA DISTRICT VI AUDITIONS/FESTIVAL

Auditions are held in October for those students interested in making the Illinois Music Educator's Association (IMEA) All-District honor band. ***It is an extremely high honor for students to be selected.*** Any student wishing to try out for District VI must let Mr. Williams know by the first week of school. Audition fees are paid by the school district. Students must play their material for Mr. Williams before being approved to try out. Audition material can be picked up in the MMS band office.

IGSMA SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

All MMS Band students are required to participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest held in March. Each student must perform a solo and/or participate in an ensemble. Students must perform their piece twice for the class before the competition. Preview dates are set on the spring master schedule in January.

IGSMA ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEST

All members of the MMS Band are required to perform at Organizational Contest. The MMS Symphonic Band as part of their spring schedule does this contest each year. Schedule and details to come later in the year as the date approaches.

MMS BANDS SPRING TRIP

Each spring the MMS Band takes a spring trip, participating in a sponsored music festival. Both the MMS Symphonic Band and the MMS Jazz Ensemble participate. Past festival trips include Holiday World in Santa Claus, Indiana, Branson, Missouri, and Louisville, Kentucky. **This trip is purely extra-curricular.** Students raise money to go through fundraisers. ***It does not count towards your quarter grade in band.*** More details to come later this fall.

MMS BANDS TRIP ETIQUETTE/ELIGIBILITY *(Solo & Ensemble, Organizational, Spring Trip, Elementary Tour, etc...)*

Students must be aware of the following: **Mr. Williams will take all school write-ups, as well as behavior during all rehearsals and performances into consideration for Trip Eligibility.** Students must handle themselves on **ALL** trips that **BEST** represents both MMS Bands and Murphysboro Middle School. ***All MMS rules and policies apply on MMS Band trips.*** If a student cannot handle themselves in this manner, both the student and their parent/guardian will be informed by Mr. Williams in a private conference.

- ✓ Students who become ineligible for trips that count as performance grades (***Solo & Ensemble, Organizational, and the Elementary Tour***), will be given an alternative assignment to make up the points.
- ✓ If for some reason a student becomes ineligible for Spring Trip participation, **A FULL OR PARTIAL REFUND OF MONEY WILL DEPEND ON THE DATE YOUR STUDENT BECOMES INELIGIBLE.**

- *Due to dates set by the Sponsored Music Festival*

MMS BANDS PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

1. **APPLE FESTIVAL KIDDIE PARADE:**
Blue Devil Band Shirt, multi-purpose athletic shoes and socks, brown khaki shorts.
2. **APPLE FESTIVAL GRAND PARADE:**
TBA.
3. **BLUE DEVIL PEP BAND:**
Blue Devil Band Shirt, jeans, multi-purpose athletic shoes, and a crazy/ignorant hat (*optional*).
4. **MMS SYMPHONIC BAND CONCERT DRESS:**
Gentlemen: Plain button-down white dress shirt or top, black pants, black belt, black shoes, and black socks.

Ladies: Black Evening Wear; black dress, skirt, or pantsuit, black socks, black shoes. Nothing white or any other color except black. **All ladies must WEAR ALL BLACK!!!**
5. **JAZZ ENSEMBLE:**
Gentlemen: Plain button-down white dress shirt or top, black pants, black belt, black shoes, and black socks.

Ladies: Black dress, skirt, or pantsuit, black socks, black shoes. Nothing white or any other color except **BLACK**.

➤ PLEASE NOTE: Students without the proper attire **will not be permitted to perform.**

MMS BAND BOOSTERS

Attention all MMS Band Parents, **the MMS Band Boosters is a great way to get involved in your student's music education!** Meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the bandroom. Please come and join the conversation, your voice is important!

BAND WEBSITE

We have a tremendous band website. Please use this tool to find all of our itineraries, schedules, and announcements. You can visit Murphysboro Middle School Bands online at www.bluedevilband.org.

➤ Please read, sign, and return the last page of this handbook to Mr. Williams by the deadline date given.

MMS BANDS HANDBOOK AGREEMENT FORM

Please sign and return the following to Mr. Williams by Thursday, September 3rd, 2009.

I, _____, have read and reviewed the Murphysboro Middle School Bands Student Handbook with my child. I understand ***student expectations, the grading system, the attendance policy, trip etiquette/eligibility, and performance attire***. I will help to enforce these and all other policies with my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

