

ELEMENTARY BAND HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO THE BAND DEPARTMENT!

The instrumental music experience is a very significant offering of our school curriculum. A student's participation in instrumental music enhances many areas of his/her personal growth including self-discipline, self-confidence, cooperation, and teamwork. The band program is designed to help meet the emotional, social, mental, physical, and musical needs of every band student.

My goals for each student in the band program include:

1. To discover, appreciate, and value his/her talents, the talents of others, and the beauty of all types of music.
2. To improve his/her skills in the areas of tone production, music theory, and general knowledge of music.
3. To gain a desire to continually improve upon past performance...to be the best he/she can be.
4. To experience self-fulfillment after having communicated to others through music.
5. To experience music in a way which will bring lasting enjoyment and be pursued long after leaving Manhattan.

It is to these ends that I ask each student to give his/her best effort and cooperation so that we can work together to have a positive and rewarding year.

Recruitment:

The school district only provides beginning band during 5th grade. The end of the 4th grade year is the only opportunity for students to join band. If a student is unable to join band during the 5th grade year and wishes to be a member, that student must take private lessons with a recommended teacher until the appropriate level of competency is reached. At this time, the student will join the band and participate in group lessons.

Rehearsal and Concerts:

Fifth graders will receive lessons and full band rehearsals each week. Attendance at all lessons and rehearsals are required. These lessons will take place at the Junior High School.

Students will be able to take the Junior High bus to the Junior High in order to have band from 8:00-8:35am on their designated day. They will then be bussed back to Anna McDonald to start the school day.

One elementary concert will take place in January with the 4-5th grade orchestra and 4-5th grade choir. A second concert will take place in May also with the 6-8th grade bands. Attendance at concerts is expected since the concerts are the result of many months of hard work and preparation. Please notify the director in writing regarding unavoidable conflicts. Extreme circumstances will, of course, be considered. A student will be "excused" from a concert if she/he has accumulated excessive absences or is unprepared for the concert and has not passed the music. Concert dress is the beginning band t-shirt, black pants or skirt, black socks and black shoes

"To stop the flow of music would be like the stopping of time itself, incredible and inconceivable."

-Aaron Copeland

Concerts:

November 8: First concert with 4-5 grade orchestra.

February 7: Concert with the 4-5th grade orchestras and 4-5th grade choir.

May 15: Spring Concert with the 6-8 grade bands.

Summer Band



Students in Beginning Band are required to attend a three week Summer Band Camp. At Summer Band, students will begin to learn how to play their instrument in small groups before they begin band at the beginning of the school in larger groups. The cost for Summer Band is \$65.00 and is due the night of registration.

Instrument Rental:

Students should not obtain an instrument until after the student has tried the instruments and met with the band director. It is recommended that a “Rent-to Own” plan is followed through a dealer that offers new or like-new instruments. Students that plan to use an instrument that the family owns should bring it to the band director immediately to ensure that it is in good playing condition. A poor quality instrument or one in need of repair will hinder the development of a young player. It is absolutely essential that your instrument be purchased from our recommended music dealer as you will be sure that you are purchasing a quality instrument.

Please do not purchase your child’s instrument from a discount store such as “Sam’s Club” or “Wal-Mart” as these instruments are of a very poor quality and do not come with a full service music store standing behind them. Your child’s instrument will most likely need to be repaired at some point in time and you will need to have a music store you can trust. Many music stores will not service these instruments due to the instrument’s poor construction. In addition, students may not play on “colored” instruments. All instruments to be used in concerts must be standard band instruments in silver for flute, black for clarinet, and yellow brass (or in some cases, silver) for all others.

A painter paints
pictures on canvas.
But musicians
paint their pictures
on silence.

-Leopold Stokowski

In addition, our recommended music dealer offers insurance for your child’s instrument for a few additional dollars each month. In the event of loss or damage, your child’s instrument will be replaced or repaired. Manhattan School District 114 or the Manhattan Band Boosters are not responsible for any loss or damage to a student’s instrument. Please either purchase the insurance from the music store or have the instrument added to your personal home-owners insurance policy.

Recommended Music Dealer:

Quinlan & Fabish
6827 High Grove Boulevard
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
(630) 654-4111



Practice Expectations:

Students will not develop the skills and muscular strength that will insure mastery if practice does not take place. This is very similar to athletic training, yet music also combines the cognitive skills associated with mathematics and comprehensive thinking. Students are exposed to an entirely new system of symbols and communication. This is a great deal for a young student to master if practice only takes place at the band lessons.

Practice, such as all homework, is primarily the responsibility of the student, but it must be supported by the family for it to be consistent and successful. All students are required to practice 20-30 minutes at least five times each week. It is essential that this time is set and treated as a homework assignment. It is impossible to cram for a lesson or concert.

Ah, Music.

A magic beyond all we
do here!

A student will not be allowed to participate in a concert if a significant lack of practice and preparation is evident!

-J. K. Rowling

Private Study:

Private study is strongly encouraged for all students. Lessons offer students a chance to work with an expert on their instrument and can offer special help to students who are doing well, as well as those who may have some difficulties. If a student is a frustrated beginner, lessons may be the answer. The band director has a list of professionals who are reasonably priced and have a record of success with young students.

Parent Communication:



Memos and letters are often sent home via email regarding rehearsals and concerts so please check your email frequently. Any discipline problems will result in parent notification. Please be sure to provide me with a current email at Beginning Band registration.

Membership Expectations:

The Manhattan School District 114 Beginning Band is an organization dedicated to performance excellence. Once a student has joined band, that student has joined a group that is dependent upon each member to contribute to the best of their ability. There must be a commitment from each student to be responsible for their individual preparation and musical development so that they are able to contribute to the group. A student that does not prepare individually holds back the development and musical opportunities of the entire band.

Supply List:

All band students will need the following:

- Standard of Excellence Book 1
- Music Theory Book
- Alfred's Drum Method Book 1 (percussion only)
(All percussionists will be required to purchase a stick bag in 6th grade for approximately \$85)
- Wire music stand for home practice
- Pencil
- Supplies for the instrument

It occurred to me by intuition, and music was the driving force behind that intuition. My discovery was the result of musical perception.
-Albert Einstein

Recommended Instrument Brands:

Flute: Gemeinhardt, Yamaha, Armstrong

Clarinet: Vito, Selmer, Yamaha, LeBlanc

Alto Saxophone: Yamaha, Selmer, Conn

Cornet: Yamaha, King, Holton, Bach, Conn

Double French Horn: Conn, Yamaha, Holton

(Students do not need to purchase their own French horn.

Purchasing a double horn would only take place after 6th grade if a family so desires)

Trombone: Yamaha, King, Holton, Bach, Conn

Percussion Kit: (drum pad and bells) Pearl, Yamaha, Ludwig, Pro Mark, Vic Firth

