

Imlay City Middle School Bands

2015-2016 HANDBOOK

**Scott F. Pries
Director of Bands**

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

Scott F. Pries, Director of Bands

DESCRIPTION

Imlay City Middle School offers band in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Students in 7th and 8th grade bands will take part in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) District and State (if qualified) Band Festivals each spring. Many students choose to participate in MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festival in December. Also each year, a group of our finest musicians are chosen to participate in the District III Honors Band. Emphasis is placed on a well-rounded musical education for all students. Students will perform music from different time periods, and various styles. Students will learn about the basics of music: scales, chords, forms, etc. These topics make each student a better musician.

GRADING

1. **Positive Rehearsal/Classroom Expectations** are encouraged and expected daily. Proper rehearsal behavior must be exhibited at all times. This includes following classroom expectations that are outlined in the *REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS AND ATTITUDE* section of this document. Participation will be graded per policy in Student Handbook. .
 2. **Practice Cards:** Students will keep a record of their practice time. The Practice Card will be turned in at posted times throughout the school year. .
 3. **IC Music Proficiency Program:** Students will progress through the program meeting all requirements laid out in the Program Overview. 8th Grade only
 4. **Attendance** and participation in all performances, sectionals, and rehearsals is mandatory.
 - To obtain an excused absence, student must bring a signed note from parent at least two weeks in advance explaining the reason for the absence. (Last minute excused absences are only allowed in emergency situations.) Circumstances that will be deemed as "excused" will include: serious illness, family emergency, and other "case-by-case" situations authorized by the director.
 - Unexcused absences from after-school rehearsals or sectionals will lower the student's marking period grade by one half a letter grade (A- to B+) for each infraction.
 - Unexcused absence from any performance will result in a maximum marking period grade of C. (Additional unexcused absences will be lowered another full grade.) **This includes all concerts, parades, Band Festivals, etc.**
 - **"No Instrument days":** Students are expected to have their instrument and music/book every day and be prepared to play. Students who do not have their instrument for class will receive one day of lunch detention. If a student accumulates three "No Instrument" days in one marking period, they will receive a referral. (This rule will be waived for any student who's instrument is in the shop being repaired, or for any student who is physically unable to play their instrument, i.e. broken hand, oral surgery, etc.)
- **Students earning an F in any of the 4 categories will result in a maximum overall marking period grade of C. For example, a student who receives all A's but does not turn in a Practice Card (thus earning an F for that portion) will receive a C for the marking period.**

EVALUATION

1. Playing Tests
 - Students will be expected to be able to play anything that is assigned for a grade.
2. Written Tests
 - These may be given in the form of vocabulary tests, or to test other specific knowledge.

PRIVATE LESSONS

- Lessons are highly recommended but not required. One lesson per week, usually half to one hour, is common. Rates are set by private instructors. See director if you need assistance in finding a qualified instructor.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS AND ATTITUDE

- Follow all directions from the director and other staff members. This includes all information in printed, verbal, and other formats. Responsibility for the direction of the ensemble begins with the director. Responsibility for the performance of the ensemble rests with each and every member. Begin with your own performance.
- Students are expected to be on time for class and be in their seats within a reasonable amount of time at the beginning of class. Tardiness is defined as not being in the band room when the bell rings as well as not being in your place and ready to rehearse when the director begins rehearsal.
- Students are expected to have all rehearsal materials ready when class begins. This includes having all necessary percussion equipment ready to play.
- Students are expected to be attentive to announcements whether given by the director, other staff members or student leaders.
- During rehearsal, SILENCE IS REQUIRED. Section leaders will give instructions when asked to do so. We have no time to waste. Failure to observe this basic rule will slow our rehearsal and will not be tolerated.
- Students are expected to raise their hand to speak and listen when others are speaking. Not listening is rude. Talking out of turn during rehearsal wastes valuable time and is distracting to all.
- Students should not have gum, food or beverage in the bandroom (unless approved by the instructor.)
- Frequent restroom interruptions disrupt rehearsal. Please use restroom before or after class.
- Students are expected to purchase reeds and supplies before or after class.
- Students are expected to be respectful.. This includes other students, staff members and the equipment in the room.
- Students are expected and encouraged to bring a positive attitude. Bad attitudes not are permitted here!
- Instrument problems will be handled after class.
- Students are expected to take care of their equipment each day. This includes properly storing instruments, music and folders in the appropriate locker after rehearsal is done.
- Percussionists are expected to properly store or cover all percussion equipment at the end of each rehearsal.
- Percussionists are expected to come to class with their stick bags (including all the appropriate sticks and mallets) and return all sticks and mallets to their stick bags at the end of rehearsal.
- Percussionists are expected to treat all equipment with care and pride. All ICMS equipment, including sticks and mallets, will be cared for and returned to the proper storage area at the end of rehearsal.
- Because the ICMS Bands are the largest and most recognizable group at ICMS, students are expected to set the best example of courtesy toward others and of appropriate treatment of facilities. We are committed to the care and upkeep of all rooms, lobbies, and hallways at ICMS. Leave it in better shape than you found it.

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT MEETING EXPECTATIONS

- Students are expected to be on good behavior at all times. Self-discipline is the key to classroom discipline.
- Disruptions such as excessive talking, out of seat without permission, tardiness, and coming to class unprepared, will be dealt with first by a brief meeting with the student. Should a second offense occur, the student will be written up and referred to the Asst. Principal. Disruptions such as fighting, profanity, slander, vandalism, or disrespect for a teacher or other school staff, etc. will be sent directly to the office and proper documentation will occur.

- Students failing to uphold these responsibilities will have their grade lowered under the premise of class participation, rehearsal expectations and attitude.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENT ISSUE

- The IC Bands own a wide variety of instruments that are issued to students to play for the school year. Concert instruments will be issued during the first few days of school.
- Once in hand, students are responsible for the care and maintenance of each instrument issued to them. This includes keeping all valves, keys and other moving parts in good conditions. Brass players should oil valves and lubricate slides often to prevent them from freezing up and corroding. Woodwind players should grease all corks, check for loose screws and pads that are becoming worn out.
- All IC Band instruments should be kept clean and good playing condition.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENT RETURN

Students may use the issued equipment for the current school year. All ICMS instruments and other issued equipment will be inspected upon return at a designated date near the end of the school year. Any damage from misuse or negligence will be charged to the student. General wear and tear repairs will be handled by ICMS.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms are to be kept neat and clean at all times. Keep them hung on a hanger. Uniforms will be dry cleaned by the school at the end of the year, however, if they are malodorous or soiled during the year, then students should have them dry cleaned. Students will bear the cost of replacement for any damaged or lost uniform parts.

- Any student not in proper prescribed uniform will not perform.
 - Students should never swap any part of their uniform with another student without permission from the director.
 - No uniform adjustments will be made on performance days. Make sure everything fits prior.
1. Seventh and Eighth Grade Band Uniforms
 - Students will be provided with a tux shirt, bow tie, and cummerbund.
 - Students are required to have **black** dress pants, **black** socks and **black** dress shoes. Black basketball shoes are not acceptable.
 2. Sixth Grade Band Uniforms
 - Students will be provided with an "IC Bands" polo shirt. Students will need to wear khaki-colored pants and dark dress shoes. Please, no jeans or athletic shoes.

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES

- Flutes - cleaning rod and/or swab
- Oboe/Bassoon – cork grease, swab, **minimum 2 good reeds**
- Clarinet - swab, cork grease, reed case, **minimum 3 good reeds**
- Saxophone - comfortable neck strap, swab, cork grease, reed case, **minimum 3 good reeds**
- Trumpet - valve oil, slide grease, straight mute (grades 7 - 12)
- French Horn - valve oil, slide grease
- Trombone - slide cream, spray bottle
- Euphonium and Tuba - valve oil, slide grease
- Percussion - Practice pad, snare sticks, bell mallets, timpani mallets, stick bag
 - Percussionists are expected to have the appropriate type of stick or mallet for the instrument(s) they are required to play. Students should continue to add various mallets to their stickbag as they are needed.

FIELD TRIP/BUS BEHAVIOR

- Field trips are an extension of a student's learning experience. All students will conduct themselves with mature behavior and will adhere to all school rules and policies.
- Bus drivers and chaperones are to be treated with respect. The director will make decisions for the benefit of the group and chaperones are often responsible for relaying this information to the students, thus their directions are to be followed explicitly without question.
- **Dress Code:** All school dress code policies shall apply. If a particular dress is requested by the director, generally for a special occasion or a uniform look, all students will be expected to adhere to it. For instance, if "no jeans" are requested, students who choose to wear jeans may not attend the trip for lack of proper dress. Students are representing their city, school, their director and themselves and should dress appropriately to properly represent these entities.
- All students must ride the bus to the performance. No exceptions. You may arrange for an alternative ride home with your parent's permission.

INSTRUMENT LOCKERS

- All students will be issued an instrument locker in which they may store their instrument for the school year.
- Each student will also be issued a combination padlock. Locks must remain secured on the lockers outside of class time. Should a lock be lost or stolen, a \$5.00 replacement fee will be charged.
- Lockers are for storage of band equipment only. Athletic equipment, other books, clothes, et cetera, are prohibited.

CHALLENGES

- If a student is not satisfied with their chair placement they may challenge to be advanced in the section.
- Students may challenge the person one chair ahead of them.
- To challenge someone the challenger must fill out the Challenge Form which must be signed by all participants. The director will set up a time outside of class to complete the challenge.
- The director chooses the music which will be from music currently being rehearsed or a piece of audition music. (If the two people are on different parts, then the challenge will be on the higher part).
- You are only allowed one attempt at your challenge. If you are unsuccessful, then you must stay in your current chair.
- **Students may challenge for a better chair position up to two weeks prior to any concert date. All chair positions will be locked in for the concert at this time. Following each concert the challenge process will open again.**
- **Challenges are only allowed at the 7th and 8th Grade levels.**

Imlay City Middle School Bands

Acknowledgment of Responsibility

I have read the Middle School Band Handbook (which can be found on the IC Bands website www.icschools.us/programs/band under MS Documents) and understand and will ethically follow the procedures and rules that are explained within. If there are any questions please contact Mr. Pries at the High School, 724-9839.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

E-mail address: _____

Please provide your e-mail address above as a means of open communication about your student and IC Bands activities.

Fundraiser Permission

Throughout the year the band will be sponsoring various fundraisers. Participation in these activities is always voluntary to students. Please acknowledge below whether your student should be allowed to choose to participate in Band sponsored fundraising activities.

_____ Yes, I grant permission for my student to participate in fundraisers.

_____ No, I do not grant permission for my student to participate in fundraisers.

Website & Social Media Permission

The IC Bands have a website and a Facebook page on which we may feature students' accomplishments and performance photos.

_____ Yes, I grant permission for ICS to use my student's name and/or picture on the band website and social media.

_____ No, I do not grant permission for ICS to use my student's name and/or picture on the band website and social media.

Please return this page to Mr. Pries by the end of the first week of classes.

