

JRHS Bands Handbook

Welcome to the Gladwin Band Family!

As the director of the Gladwin Bands, I would like to personally thank you for your continued support of the long standing tradition that is the Gladwin Bands. Our goal is to strive for excellence and quality, build character, practice discipline and to always provide our community with not only an entertaining musical program but also demonstrate student leadership, which is the pride of the Gladwin Community Schools.

I look forward to working together to develop ensembles that not only perform well, but also to grow together as a band family. This is a commitment of the highest level for all of us; it requires persistence, building relationships, personal growth and understanding. This handbook will convey the guidelines and operating procedures for our Gladwin Bands. Its purpose is to help answer student/parent questions and serve as a guide for defining the procedure for our organization. **Please keep the handbook for the entire year for your reference.** If you have further questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact me and I will assist you as soon as possible.

Parents, please take the time to listen to your child play - it is a very rewarding experience. Remember, the goal is 10-15 minutes per day at the start of the year. By the end of the year your child should have built up enough endurance to play 20-25 minutes comfortably. Daily practice is essential to musical growth!

2021-2022 Gladwin Bands

Contact Information:

Melissa Sapienza, Director

989.426.7341 HS

989.426.3808 JH

msapienza@gladwinschools.net

Email is the BEST way to reach me during the day.

Prep Period: M-F 10:19-11:15 a.m.

Band Website: www.gladwinbands.net

Band FB Page: Gladwin Bands

**Band Performance Dates and Booster Meetings
online at www.gladwinbands.net**



Curriculum for 6th Grade Band

Purpose: The purpose of this course is to expose learners to the skills and merits of participation in an instrumental music ensemble at a beginning level through large and small group instruction.

Objectives: Below are the objectives that the learners will be expected to meet during the first year of instruction:

1. An understanding of proper care, assembly and respect of his/her instrument
2. The ability to produce a characteristic tone across at least an 8 note range
3. Comprehension of rhythmic patterns visually and aurally and the skills to translate these patterns on his/her instrument and/or to count back orally
4. Basic sight reading skills of whole, half, dotted half, quarter, dotted quarter and eighth notes and rests in 4/4, 3/4, and 2/4 time signatures
5. Development of musical vocabulary and the ability to speak, read and write using correct musical terminology
6. Strengthening of team and group work concepts and the ability to function and contribute in a large group setting

Materials: Learners use the *Essential Elements, Book 1* and sheet music to supplement instruction.

Grading: Each learner is assessed based on improvement towards completion of the objectives. The assessments include, but are not limited to written, listening and playing tests. Necessary components of grading in a band class include attendance and participation. Learners will receive a letter grade and an individual assessment sheet at the end of each semester.

Homework: Daily practice is the assigned homework for band class. At the 6th grade level, it is necessary to practice 10-15 minutes daily. Practice can exceed this time frame, but does not need to. The most important factor is regularity, not time. Weekly assignments will be given, and each child will be expected to complete these assignments to the best of their playing abilities.

Enrollment in band: If a learner is struggling to achieve in the class, the teacher will discuss options with the child and the parent(s). ***It is vital that he or she remains in the class the entire first year, giving the child the opportunity to fully experience all that we do in band. Often frustration is relieved after a few months of playing an instrument.***



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT JOINING BAND:

• HOW DOES MY CHILD SELECT AN INSTRUMENT?

Your child was fitted during school to an instrument by a representative from Herter Music Center. Things considered in fitting a child to an instrument are:

- 1) Physical characteristics (i.e. a student with very small fingers might struggle with clarinet)
- 2) Student interest
- 3) Initial success on an instrument at the fitting time
- 4) Instrumentation needs (a band with 24 saxes & 18 percussionists wouldn't sound balanced)

• WHAT IF I HAVE AN INSTRUMENT AT HOME, OR FIND ONE ON THE INTERNET?

If you have an instrument at home and your child wishes to play it, it needs to be in good working condition. If it has not been played for several years, it should probably be cleaned and checked out. (Either Herter Music of Bay City or Marshall Music can do this.) I recommend waiting to buy an instrument off of the Internet until you are sure that particular instrument will work for your child. Many websites carry I.L.O.'s ("Instrument-Like-Objects). These instruments are made of parts and pieces that often cannot be repaired or replaced and result in purchasing another instrument rather than having it fixed. This short-term savings often results in paying nearly double what a modestly-priced quality instrument would cost. Many parents have opted to try the rental program through Marshall Music for an instrument (this is standard) and then found a like new QUALITY instrument on the internet at a later date. (Please let me know if you are looking for an instrument on the web. I am happy to offer input regarding brand names that are good investments vs. an instrument that cannot be repaired if it were to stop working. This is just something to consider...)

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT "BARGAIN" INSTRUMENTS PURCHASED ONLINE OFTEN BREAK WITHIN WEEKS OF PLAYING, AND CANNOT BE REPAIRED BY MUSIC COMPANIES! OFTEN THE GREAT PRICE CANNOT OVERCOME THE POOR QUALITY OF THE INSTRUMENT. MANY PARENTS HAVE STARTED THIS ROUTE, AND REALIZED THAT THEY WERE ACTUALLY SPENDING MORE ON THE INSTRUMENT THAN IF THEY HAD SPENT A LITTLE BIT MORE ON A QUALITY INSTRUMENT. PLEASE CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS!

**Teacher Availability**

I am available to support learners on class work and additional out of class performance opportunities on a first come, first served basis Tuesdays until 4:15 pm at the High School. Additional availability outside these days will be announced in advance during class. I would also be willing to work with learners by appointment when these days are not conducive to the learner's schedule.

Course Description

Jr. High School Band is year-long curricular-based performance class for 6th-8th grade learners enrolled in the band program, which gives those involved the opportunity to cultivate and develop musical skills as well as the ability to work within both large and small groups. Required elements of the course include class rehearsal and several after school performances, including, but not limited to: concert band festival (7/8 grade only), concerts, parades and performances at school athletic functions. Practicing outside of school is also a necessity for the learner to be successful in the program. Extra curricular involvement in solo and ensemble, private lessons and summer camps is also available to each learner.

Course Objective

To instill an appreciation of music in all students, with special emphasis on music theory, proper performance techniques, sight reading, self-discipline, and positive personal character traits.

Classroom Goals

- 1) To strive toward the development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of music.
- 2) Become interested and discriminating listeners and develop a strong, well-rounded background.
- 3) Contribute to selected school and community functions while promoting and enhancing the reputation of the school at all times.
- 4) To provide all interested students with an opportunity for a productive use of leisure time and positive social experiences.

Course Materials

All learners are expected to bring their instrument, music and a pencil to each rehearsal.

Online Gradebook

All grades for this course will be published in SKYWARD on a weekly basis. Parents and learners can access SKYWARD by contacting the school office.

Chromebooks

School issued chromebooks will be used on occasion during the band period. Students may bring their devices to class to be used for these purposes.



Homework

Learners will be asked to complete assignments outside of class instruction time. These assignments may be written or performance driven. Whether assigned for completion at home or in class, due dates are to be respected.

Evaluation Criteria

All learners are evaluated using a variety of assessment methods (observations, in-class assignments, homework, quizzes, tests, performances, etc.) in each of the following categories:

6th, 7th, & 8th GRADE BAND

*** One (1) unexcused absence from a performance will result in a two-letter grade drop (i.e. A to C)**

Assignments/Tests/Daily Work:

- Participation – 5 daily points (Music/Instrument/Behavior)
- Playing Quizzes – 16 points each
- Performances – 40 points each

Class Norms

It is my belief that there is no such thing as “good enough”. Learners, as well as the facilitator should always be looking for ways to improve upon their previous best. Learners must understand that they will be held to a higher standard daily and that at no point will we settle for anything less than their best efforts.

Culture is important in my classroom as well. I believe in a family atmosphere, where all are accepted as they are, regardless of differences or shortcomings. The “family” nurtures one another and encourages all to strive for the most they can achieve.

IN ADDITION:

* Instruments are to be kept in good playing condition. (School instruments are issued in good playing condition – it is the responsibility of the musician using the instrument to see that it stays in such condition. If the instrument needs repair while in the musicians care, it is the musician’s personal and financial responsibility to have the instrument repaired.)

* Students are not to play instruments belonging to other students without permission of the director and the owner of the instrument.

* You are expected to improve your skills and knowledge of music daily.

* Instrument supplies, including reeds, oil, mouthpieces, ligatures, percussion sticks and mallets, and neckstraps are the responsibility of the student. Purchases and orders can be made through the band director with ***advance payment only!***



Food and Drink

Food, gum and drinks are not permitted in the band room, with the exception of water in a bottle that has a resealable top.

Musicianship

Attitude

The single greatest factor that will determine the success of any individual is attitude. It takes intense dedication to attain goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to practice daily.

Discipline

A good band is built on discipline. Discipline is order. Because the band members are constantly on display, each must always be aware of the importance of good behavior. The student should remember that he/she represents his/her organization, school, and community, whenever he/she performs or appears publicly. Any misconduct casts a direct reflection on our school and community and may undo the good work of hundreds of loyal students.

Rights and Responsibilities

*** The Band Member's Responsibility to the Music Program**

- 1) Be regular in attendance and account for all absences.
- 2) Make an honest attempt to learn and improve daily.
- 3) Become responsible for your own actions.
- 4) Have the proper respect for those in authority.
- 5) Follow all classroom rules, school regulations, and all travel instructions.
- 6) Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life in general.
- 7) Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are part of the band program.
- 8) Contribute positively to your own music education and to that of others.
- 9) Read and play music with insight and expression.
- 10) Improve own knowledge and understanding of music theory, harmony, and history, and develop good listening habits.



Uniforms

Seventh & Eighth Grade Band (CONCERT BAND)

The 7th & 8th Grade Bands are responsible to purchase a band polo shirt to be worn for their December, March and May Concert performances. The cost of this shirt is \$ 20. In addition to the polo shirt, each student is responsible for the following items for their uniform:

- 1) Black pants
- 2) Black socks
- 3) Black shoes

Please let the director know as soon as possible if you need help acquiring any of these items!

Sixth Grade Band (CADET BAND)

Sixth Grade Band members are expected to dress in nice clothing for their concerts. This means **NO** jeans or t-shirts.

Instruments

It is the policy of the Gladwin Community School District to provide students (to the best of the district's ability) with instruments that could generally not afford to participate in band otherwise. Students using a school instrument will be asked to make an **annual donation of \$20** to cover the costs associated with maintaining the instrument in good playing condition.





Gladwin JRHS

7th and 8th Grade Band Shirt Order Form

DUE to Mrs. Sapienza by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

Please return this form to Mrs., Sapienza by Friday, September 17 with cash or check (made payable to Gladwin Band Boosters) in the amount of \$20. These shirts will be used for both 7th and 8th grade.

STUDENT NAME: _____

Circle Size Needed: Small Medium Large Extra Large

___ Check ___ Cash ___ Paypal (www.gladwinbands.net service fee may apply)





Video/Photo Media Release Form-All Students

To be turned in to Mrs. Sapienza by Friday, September 17, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a member of the Gladwin Band program, there are occurrences where students will be photographed or recorded on video for various functions. These photographs/videos will show students and teachers in learning settings as part of the Gladwin Band program. These pictures or videos will be used to help promote the band through various forms of media: school/band website, presentations, or press releases. No images of anyone in the Gladwin Band program will be used publicly without the permission of the director, Melissa Sapienza.

By signing below, both the student and parent understand these purposes and agree to allow pictures or videos to be used to help promote our program. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Melissa Sapienza (contact information p.1 of Hand Book)

Video/Photo/Media Release (please check one of the following):

I DO give my permission for my child's individual image (still or video) to be included in media promoting the Gladwin Band program.

I DO NOT give my permission for my child's individual image (still or video) to be included in media promoting the Gladwin Band program.

STUDENT NAME: _____

PARENT NAME: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____





BAND CALENDAR OF DATES 2021-2022

For the Most Updated Dates, ADD BAND CAL from Gladwin Bands website to your Google Cal

September 8	6 th Grade	6 p.m.	Parent Night-Instrument Rental
September 10	HS BAND	5-9 p.m.	VARSITY FB HOME PERFORMANCE*
September 13	All	-	Pizza Kit Kick-Off Fundraiser
September 14	All	6:30 p.m.	Booster Meeting-HS BAND ROOM
September 17	HS BAND	TBD	HOMECOMING PEP/PARADE/FB PERF.*
September 30	All	-	Pizza Kit Orders and \$ DUE
October 4	HS BAND	TBD	CADILLAC MARCHING INVITATIONAL*
October 12	All	6:30 p.m.	Booster Meeting-HS BAND ROOM
October 15	HS BAND	5-9 p.m.	VARSITY FB HOME PERFORMANCE*
October 18	All	3-5 p.m.	Pizza Kit Pick-Up
October 23	HS BAND	TBD	CMU Band Day (optional)
November 10	All	6:30 p.m.	Booster Meeting-HS BAND ROOM
November 11	HS Band	-	VETERAN'S DAY PERFORMANCE*
November 23	HS Band	-	HS S/E REGISTRATION DUE
December 4	HS BAND	TBD	Gladwin CHRISTMAS PARADE*
December 13	ALL BANDS	6:30 p.m.	Gladwin Bands Winter Concert*
December 15	7/8 HS BAND	-	Submit All-Star Band Recordings (optional)
January 11	All	6:30 p.m.	Booster Meeting-HS BAND ROOM
January 21-22	-	-	All-State Band (optional)
February 5	HS BAND	-	District S/E Festival, Clare
February 15	All	6:30 p.m.	Booster Meeting-HS BAND ROOM
February 22	ALL BANDS	6:30 p.m.	MONSTER CONCERT, HS GYM*
March 9-11	7/8/HS	TBD	DISTRICT BAND FESTIVAL*
March 15	All	6:30 p.m.	Booster Meeting-HS BAND ROOM
March 19	HS BAND	-	State S/E Festival
April 12	All	6:30 p.m.	Booster Meeting, HS Band Room
May 10	All	6:30 p.m.	Booster Meeting, HS Band Room
May 18 (tent)	ALL BANDS	6:30 p.m.	SPRING CONCERT and AWARDS*
May 30	HS BAND	TBD	MEMORIAL DAY PARADE*
June 5	HS BAND	3 p.m.	GRADUATION*
June 14	All Bands	TBD	Cedar Point Trip