

GHS Symphonic Band 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.

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

Remind App: @gs74dee to 81010

Google Classroom: [yhkyodw](https://classroom.google.com/j/1/yhkyodw)

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

**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

Symphonic Band is year-long curricular-based performance class for 9th-12th 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, 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, pep band 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:

SYMPHONIC 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/Application)
- 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 musician's 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

Symphonic Band Uniform

Learners in the Symphonic Band are responsible to purchase the following items prior to our first concert:

- 1) Black pants (school tuxedo or skirt is an option, if necessary)
- 2) Black dress shirt or blouse
- 2) Black socks
- 3) Black dress shoes (if wearing a women's dress shoe, no socks are needed.)

School will provide the necessary accessories to finish the uniform, i.e. bowties, neckties, etc.

Marching Band Uniform

Learners in the Symphonic Band are issued a school marching band uniform consisting of jacket, pants, hat and raincoat. The Band Camp T-Shirt is also part of the marching band uniform, and is always worn under the marching band jacket for performance. It is the responsibility of each learner to care for the uniform by hanging it properly when not in use and keeping it in good condition for the year.

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.





Video/Photo Media Release Form

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