

**2020-2021**

**Edition**

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# **Policies and Procedures**

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Handbook**

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# York School District One 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Handbook

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\*\*Sign and Return Agreement – Week of August 31<sup>st</sup>

Band Students and Parents:

Welcome to one of the most exciting experiences in which you can be a part – the band! Now, more than ever, we have information to justify why we participate in this demanding, yet rewarding, activity. Experts have concluded that the study of music helps with spatial reasoning, test taking, and overall quality of life! Factor in social skills, emotional development, leadership training, group interaction, aesthetic perception, music-making, and the discipline of being in a band program, and I don't know why anyone would not want to be involved in a successful band program like the one at our school. The ultimate goal is a lifelong understanding and appreciation for high-quality music and music-making!

*Everyone should read the information in the handbook.* This is the “band bible,” which keeps us running smoothly and efficiently. Most questions can be answered by consulting the *handbook*, and policies will be adjusted from year to year as the need arises to clarify issues within the program. It is my hope that the information contained in this handbook will both *inform* and *inspire*! The advocacy article “How Parents Can Help” is designed to give guidance to parents, read it carefully to gain important insights. Students need to know we think that what they do is important. You will quickly find that band is truly a family in and of itself.

This handbook is designed to answer any questions you might have concerning the program. Please read all of the information, and sign the forms in the back of the book. I am honored to be your band director and am looking forward to a great year!

Regardless of the challenges we face this year, we will make music and have fun doing it!  
Warmest Regards,

*Mr. McCarter*

# Student Handbook

## Band Policy

In order to assist band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this policy will enable each individual to make the most of this great opportunity to be a member of the intermediate school band program, becoming a better person and a better musician.

We firmly believe each student should improve through regular practice. When the student has lost the will to improve him- or herself or make a better contribution to the band, he or she is wasting the time and effort of fellow members and the community by continuing in the program. The happiest student is one who improves through regular habits of practice and daily progress. He or she must not only know right from wrong but must be able to stand for principles and develop a high sense of purpose toward which he or she is willing to work. Responsibility is the focus behind any level of achievement within this program. We intend to conduct ourselves in a manner that will facilitate the learning of all students.

## Objectives of the Band Program

- To teach music by its actual performance.
- To develop performance skills on the various wind and percussion instruments.
- To provide for the musical needs of the school and the community.
- To develop discrimination with regard to the selection of music.
- To acquaint the students with music theory/history and how history and musical composition relate to students' lives and musical experiences.
- To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience.
- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhance interaction, and develop *esprit de corps*.
- To foster leadership skills within each student.

## Duties of the Band Member

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. **Early is on time – on time is late.**
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, get your instrument, and go directly to your seat.
- When the director or staff member steps on the podium or asks for your attention, all talking should cease.

- Come to the rehearsal with a good attitude.
- There should be no excess playing (e.g., horsing around on the instrument), only good, solid material.
- Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis, and establish a good practice routine.
- At the end of the rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place.
- Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
- Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you are wrong.
- Have proper respect for yourself and those in authority.
- Read and play music with insight – have musical expectations.

### **The Importance of Attitude**

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is **attitude**. The kind of person you are is an individual choice, and how you feel about something is one of the few actual independent choices you have in life. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to practice fundamentals daily. The right attitude must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundations. Such an attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable and is the difference between a winning organization and mediocre group. The band can do much for you. Make the most of it in every rehearsal and performance.

### **The Importance of Discipline**

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict! Band students and parents must believe in the ideals, principles, and philosophy of the organization. Each member must always be aware of good behavior and think for him- or herself. Any misconduct casts a bad light on the school, community, and band program.

### **Afterschool Rehearsal Requirement**

All York 6<sup>th</sup> grade beginner band members are required to participate in 3-4 afterschool rehearsals in preparation for the Spring Concert. Rehearsals are generally scheduled at YIS in the Bandroom from 2:35-4:00 in the month of March. Transportation arrangements will be announced for HGSES band students. **\*\*Dates To-Be-Announced\*\***

### **Concert Performance Requirement**

All York 6<sup>th</sup> grade beginner band members are required to participate in a Spring Concert. This performance serves as an assessment and showcase of the culminating work that has been put in by every student throughout the school year.

\*COVID-19 Statement: This normally takes place in the YCHS auditorium in early April. Without knowing what the school year holds for us all, we are tentatively planning multiple performance options. More information will be released as the year progresses!

## **Solo & Ensemble Performance**

Solo & Ensemble is a State level event hosted by the South Carolina Band Director's Association that provides student solo and small ensemble performance opportunities for a rating. Every year York 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band members have the opportunity to perform! This event normally includes performances in the morning and a chaperoned trip to a "fun park" type business to celebrate the completion of the event. Every student is encouraged to participate in such an educational and fun day of events!

\*COVID-19 Statement: This event normally takes place in late April. At this point, we are waiting for confirmation from the South Carolina Band Director's Association as to the status of this event.

## **Parents' Responsibility to the Band**

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in the handbook are followed and that the forms in the back are filled out, signed, and returned. This states that you understand the policies set within and that any questions are to be directed to the band director by making an appointment. Each parent is responsible for the attendance of his or her child at all band functions. It is the responsibility of each parent to see that the child practices his or her instrument daily. The hands of the director are tied without the help of parents.

## **How Parents Can Help**

When a band question arises, it is important that you get factual information before discussing with others. We do more harm to ourselves, the band family, when we talk about things that contain one or more falsehoods presented as facts. If questions arise, it is important to remember this axiom: If it is a performance issue or anything dealing with the band proper, contact the band director.

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child.
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
- Listen to performances of practice material when asked to do so.
- Help the student keep a daily record of practicing.
- Come up with a reward system for daily practice.
- Keep the instrument in good repair, and keep at least FOUR reeds in the case; get a metronome/tuner!
- Be extra careful with school owned instruments. Repair costs are high!
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal and lesson.
- Provide private instruction!!
- Make faithful attendance to all band activities important.
- Buy your child a personal planner or encourage them to use the calendars on their digital devices to mark important dates.
- Keep the handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
- Notify the teacher if the student is to be absent for rehearsals or lessons.
- Double-check to make sure students have their instruments.
- Turn in fund-raising money on time.

## **Students' Responsibility to the Band**

As members of this organization, you have a great deal of responsibility. These expectations coordinate with the privileges, rewards, and duties of the band program.

### **To Ourselves**

You have the primary responsibility of developing your own abilities. The benefits of a good instrument and private instruction can never be overestimated. What you put into it is what you will get out of it. The director is always available for your guidance and encouragement – just ask!

### **To the School**

The school district provides us with the resources for rehearsals, performances, and equipment. We have the responsibility to provide the best possible services to our school and community.

### **To Music**

Music has always been a part of our culture. We must take what we have and use it for the betterment of that culture. No one expects you to be virtuoso musicians, only to do the very best you can. The great Gustav Mahler once said that only 10 percent of music is on the page. If that is the case, we as musicians have the duty of creating and producing the other 90 percent. The joy of music is not in everything that is apparent. It must be discovered and created.

### **To Each Other**

We must always do what is best for the welfare of the group. There can be no selfish acts solely for the benefit of the individual. Respect each other. If there are conflicts, find a way to resolve them. Never insult another band member's integrity. The word "band" implies that we are banded together without divisions.

## **Classroom Rules**

1. Be on Time, on Task, and prepared to Learn everyday.
2. Keep all electronics put away.
3. Be responsible for your Own learning.
4. Respect: The Teacher, The Classroom, and Other Students.
5. Trash goes in the trashcan.
6. Masks will be worn at all times when not playing.

## Required Concert Attire

ALL 6<sup>th</sup> grade band members will be required to participate in “concert black” for all performance opportunities. This provides our ensemble with a uniform and professional appearance similar to many professional ensembles around the world. Concert black includes the following:

- District provided black York Cougar Band polo
- Black dress pants
- Black belt
- Black socks
- Black dress shoes/flats (no sandals or open-toed shoes)

\*COVID-19 Statement: Depending on the type of Spring Concert performance allowed, our concert attire could be adjusted to fit that style of performance.

## Communication

In order for our band to be the best that it can be, we cannot allow ourselves the luxury of making excuses or letting problems go unresolved. Good communication is vital if we are to maintain our Superior tradition!

### Forms of Communication

- Emails - The band sends emails with news and reminders once and up to several times a week. \*Email Mr. McCarter, [zmccarter@york.k12.sc.us](mailto:zmccarter@york.k12.sc.us) to be registered for the email list!
- Remind – District Information to follow.

## Classroom Fee

Your \$10 classroom fee includes the following items/materials. A breakdown of cost is included with each item.

- Cougar Band T-shirt = \$8
- Black 1 inch 3 ring binder = \$.75
- 10 heavy duty sheet protectors = \$.25
- 3 ringed zipper pouch = \$.50
- 4 pre sharpened pencils = \$.25
- 1 dry erase marker = \$.15
- 1 large binder clip = \$.10

## Needed Equipment and Supplies

### ALL students need the following daily:

- ✓ All items included in the above classroom fee
- ✓ Metronome/Tuner
- ✓ Assigned Instrument in working order
- ✓ Cleaning/Care materials for specific instrument

## Rental of School Owned Instruments

Parents with students that are playing French Horn, Euphonium, or Tuba will rent a school owned instrument to use for the school year for a District determined fee. Students are required to provide/own their own mouthpiece for their rented instrument.

\*\*\*Please refer to the District Band Instrument Rental agreement for details and fees.\*\*\*



**BAND HANDBOOK AGREEMENT**  
**York 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band**

\*\*PLEASE SIGN BELOW AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO MR. MCCARTER the week of August 31\*\*

My student and I have read the York 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Handbook and understand all expectations in regards to behavior, investments/expenses, and positive participation.

We also understand that part of my student's band grade depends on the signing and returning of this agreement, and specifically affirm our understanding that the failure to follow and abide by the rules of this handbook may result in the removal of my child from the band program.

As a parent, I understand I can call the Band Director with any questions pertaining to information I do not understand fully in this handbook.

I have read and understand the York 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Handbook Agreement:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date