

BAND HANDBOOK

Hernando Middle School

Directors: Joseph Quinnelly, Tyler Harris, Victoria Jones, and Len Killough

Principal: Dr. Jerry Floate

Hernando Middle School
700 Dilworth Ln.
Hernando, MS 38632
(662)429-4154
hernandobands.com

PURPOSE

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a convenient reference for students, parents, administrators, and directors who have questions concerning any aspect of the band program at Hernando Middle School. We have made an honest effort to include and explain every possible facet of the band program.

PHILOSOPHY

The Hernando Middle School band is an organization devoted to the education of all the young people it touches. Members experience more than just playing an instrument; they learn about teamwork and striving for excellence. They learn and experience every day what it is like to be a part of something that will not only teach them about music, but will teach them about life. As a part of the educational experience, the HMS band program has traditionally offered opportunities for students to participate in very successful performing ensembles. The standards for participation in the HMS band program are maintained at the highest possible levels. Students at the Middle School will be expected to conform to the highest standards of discipline, rehearsal conduct, and individual performance as we prepare them to be members of the Hernando High School Band.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS FOR APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Each student and parent/guardian should familiarize themselves with the following expectations to avoid any possible misunderstandings.

1. Each band student will be seated in their appropriate seat one minute after the tardy bell rings with their instrument, music (band binder) in order, and a pencil.
2. Students are responsible for having, getting, and maintaining appropriate supplies for band class every day.
3. No student will be allowed to play his/her instrument without permission during rehearsal.
4. Food, drinks, gum, and candy are not allowed in the band hall.
5. Students are expected to remain in class for the entire period. Do not ask permission to leave class for any reason. The teacher understands emergencies and those will be handled case by case.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

1. Enter the rehearsal hall in a quiet, courteous, and orderly fashion.
2. Students must be seated with instruments assembled and proper class materials evident one minute following the tardy bell. Students should have their music in order for the class agenda.
3. Students will not play instruments without permission.
4. All items not needed for the rehearsal should be left in the hallway in the designated area.
5. The band director will dismiss students from class in an orderly fashion. The bell does not dismiss the class, the teacher does. When exiting the room, students should follow the rows without disturbing the chairs and music stands around them.

CONSEQUENCES

1. Students who fail to bring proper class materials will:
 - a. Receive a “0” for daily grade
 - b. Have an alternate assignment during class
 - c. Students consistently unable to follow classroom rules or procedures risk being removed from the band program.

2. Students displaying inappropriate behaviors will:
 - a. Receive a verbal warning
 - b. Receive a “0” for the daily grade
 - c. Have a student-teacher conference with a letter to the parent
 - d. Receive an office referral

DRAGONFLY

All middle school band students must complete all required forms on Dragonfly Max. According to MHSAA policy, students can and will be held out of band activities if they are not up to date on this website. Please go to dragonflymax.com, create an account, join Hernando Middle School, and choose “Junior High Band.” Then complete all requirements listed on the account. If you have any issues, please contact Mr. Quinnelly.

GRADING POLICY

Tests: 50%

Each performance is considered a major test grade, also known as a Nine Weeks Test. The students will also have weekly playing tests that will count as one test grade each. Tests will consist of materials covered during class each day. Students with unexcused absences on the day of a test will have three days to make up the test that he/she missed. After three days, the grade received will be a “0.”

Passoffs: 35%

Students are assigned a weekly passoff playing assignment that is to be completed outside of school and submitted online for grading. These weekly assignments must be submitted by class on Thursday in order to receive full credit. If turned in by class on Friday, students can only receive a “50.” After Friday, the grade received will be a “0.”

Participation/Daily Grade: 15%

Students will receive a weekly participation grade of “100.” Each day the student will earn 20 points. To earn the 20 points the students must bring his/her instrument and other necessary materials to class (pencil, binder, other supplies), come to class on time, and participate in class by being ready to play. If the daily grade is not earned for any reason state, the grade for the day will be a “0.”

Weekly Playing Test Evaluation

Middle school band is a group participation activity where students learn musical skills in a controlled setting. Although most instruction for beginning and intermediate band students takes place in a group setting, the students are evaluated *often* and *individually*. A large portion of the students band grade ultimately reflects the level of individual skill the student possesses on his/her instrument, which is determined from the average of a series of playing tests. There is a direct relationship between practice time at home and a student’s playing ability on these tests.

The playing tests are evaluated using the following rubric:

Beginning Grade: 100

- Major performance error (wrong note or rhythm): minus 5 points per error
- Failure to demonstrate proper tempo/beat (not tapping foot with metronome: minus 5-15 points, depending on the severity of tempo variance
- Incorrect posture: minus 5 points
- Incorrect breathing/breath support: minus 5 points
- Poor tone not directly related to the previous two errors: minus 5 points
- Incorrect holding position or incorrect fingerings: minus 5 points

Examples:

1. Bobby performs “Go Tell Aunt Rhodie” while demonstrating correct posture and holding position, proper breathing, and representative tone quality for his instrument, and he plays all the correct notes while making only one rhythm error (-5).
Grade = 95
2. Mary performs “Jingle Bells” with poor posture (-5) and poor holding position (-5), poor breath support (-5), and makes 7 major performance errors (5 wrong notes and 2 wrong rhythms) (-35).
Grade = 40

Student Self-Evaluation Rubric

Music Performance Levels

- Level 1: I haven't worked on my music yet. I had to stop a lot because I was mostly sight reading. My sound might not be very good because I'm not really thinking about that.
- Level 2: I spent a little time working by myself on my music, but I still stop too much and don't pay much attention to dynamics or articulation. I need to work more often with the metronome so I can learn to keep a steady tempo. I probably should ask for help from my teacher or one of my friends who is doing better than I am. My instrument might need some repair work (or I might not have a good reed).
- Level 3: It's obvious from my performance that I worked on the music and that I'm doing what my band director or private lesson teacher is telling me. Though I still stop sometimes, I'm improving! My instrument is in great condition (my slides move easily, there are no leaks, and I have good reeds).
- Level 4: I hardly miss any notes because I play slowly and steadily. I don't try to go faster than I can control and that's why I'm improving. I'm starting to play more of the dynamics and articulations, and though I sometimes still miss a few, most of them are right. I'm really making progress!
- Level 5: I play almost everything – notes, rhythms, dynamics, articulation, phrasing, and even ornaments – correctly and with confidence. I don't have to stop or start over, and if I do make a mistake, I keep right on going. At times, I'm starting to sound like a high school musician, and I'm playing well enough to make the local honor bands!
- Level 6: I play like a real musician. I shape my phrases, I make mature sounds all the times, and I don't get as nervous as I used to when I perform. I sound like a good high school musician!

Chromatic Scale Performance Levels:

- Level 1: I tried to play my chromatic scale, but I skipped notes and stopped a lot. I have to work on using the correct chromatic fingerings (and slides if I play trombone).
- Level 2: I played all the right notes with the right chromatic fingerings (and I used my slides if I play trumpet). I may have played a little slowly, but that's okay! When asked, I can say the right chromatic note names while I finger/position.
- Level 3: My chromatic scale is getting easier and easier. I keep a steady tempo, and I even sound good on the highest and lowest notes.

Scale Performance Levels

- Level 1: I tried to play the scale, but I don't really know it yet.
- Level 2: I got some of the notes. I need to pay better attention to articulation and tone quality.
- Level 3: I got most of the notes right and I had to stop, but I finally got through it. Now I have to work on keeping a steady tempo and not stopping. My tone quality is really improving!
- Level 4: I nailed one of the octaves, but I have to work on the full range so I can pass it off. My tone quality is good!
- Level 5: I got it! All the right notes, the right articulation, and the right number of octaves! The entire scale sounds pretty good!
- Level 6: I got it on the first try, and my tempo is getting faster. I used vibrato (only applicable to vibrato instruments (flute, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, or euphonium). I'm starting to sound like a high school musician.
- Level 7: My scales are really getting good. I can play from one to the next without hesitating, and I'm right there with the best players in our band.

I know that my highest level will be reached by playing the more familiar scales at a faster tempo and the others at a slower tempo.

FAST AND WRONG DOESN'T EARN A BETTER SCORE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR BAND

Each student enrolled in middle school band is expected to have:

1. An instrument in playing condition. Instruments must be purchased from a merchant specializing in band instrument sales and service. Instruments purchased from merchants who also sell groceries, clothes, and auto parts do not meet performance standards of the Hernando Band Program and are not acceptable. *Used instruments should be approved by the band director.*
2. A 3-ring binder with all music, method books, and materials issued by the band director in sheet protectors.
3. A pencil
4. A name tag on the instrument case (these are available for free from the directors, just ask)
5. 8th Grade band students who play woodwind or brass instruments have to have a flip folder and a lyre for their instrument.

INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE AND CARE

1. Each student is provided a place to store their equipment during the school day. The school is equipped with instrument storage for each grade. 6th graders should store their instruments in the designated area outside of C-Hall or in the designated area of the commons. 7th graders should store theirs in the designated areas outside of B-Hall. 8th graders should store their instruments in the designated areas on D-Hall right outside the Band Hall. Hernando Middle School and Desoto County Schools will not be responsible for lost or stolen items.
2. At no time should any student leave an instrument in any part of the school other than the Band Hall or in the designated areas listed above.
3. Students with instrument problems should see the band director before taking the instrument to any repair facility. The band directors are able to repair many minor problems at no charge to the students. Instruments requiring extensive work should be taken to a full-service repair facility. *At no time should students or untrained adults attempt to repair band instruments.*

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

School-owned instruments are to be taken care of as if they were personally owned. These instruments are very expensive and need to be maintained in good working condition. Only certain instruments are offered for rental by the school. The district has required us to charge a maintenance fee for all school-owned instruments. The user fee is \$100 per year. This fee needs to be paid at the beginning of the fall semester in order to check out an instrument. ***You are responsible for any charges above the user fee resulting from neglect, poor maintenance, and accidents (dents, etc.). The condition of the instrument will be noted and logged in the inventory at the time of checkout.***

PRIVATE LESSONS

Students in the Hernando Band Program are highly encouraged to take private lessons from one of our approved studio teachers or an instructor of similar quality. Private lessons will allow students to receive more individualized instruction on his/her instrument, which will help them improve more quickly, reach new levels of performance, and explore more opportunities. The price and schedule of lessons varies depending on the instructor. For more information or to sign up for these lessons, please email our lessons coordinator, Mrs. Emily Coats (emilycoats@gmail.com), or contact the studio teacher directly using the information below.

FLUTE

Shelly Sublet – (901)581-0190

Gabriel Vega – (909)513-9092

Jennifer Whitehead – (901)326-8220

CLARINET/DOUBLE REEDS

Jasper Hensley – (901)603-2310

SAXOPHONE

Angel Rubio – (901)486-1719

TRUMPET

Megan Bailey – (785)650-4223

FRENCH HORN/MELLOPHONE

Leander Star – (503)964-3956

LOW BRASS

Brian Crum – (901)896-5561

Buster Harris – (901)239-3026

PERCUSSION

Mason Hill – (901)652-7843

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

We will begin taking up band fees on Monday, August 8. Each middle school band student is responsible for having a band polo. **The cost of the polo is \$15.** Cash, checks, and money orders are accepted, and they should be made payable to **Hernando Middle School**, not HMS Band or Band Boosters. Please include what and whom the check is for in the memo section of the check. We will also need a phone number and the student's MSIS number on the check.

1. 6th Grade – responsible for having a band polo (Cost is \$15).
2. 7th Grade – responsible for having a band polo if student is new or needs a new shirt (Cost is \$15).
3. 8th Grade - responsible for having a band polo if student is new or needs a new shirt (Cost is \$15). Also may be responsible for some travel expenses during the year because the 8th grade sometimes performs at off-campus events. 8th Graders will also need to purchase a lyre and flip folder. A price listing for these will be discussed in class when prices are confirmed.
4. All Band Students – responsible for fundraising. Fundraising is a crucial part of any successful organization. You will have many fundraising opportunities to help raise money for the band and the money raised will be spent directly on music, new instruments, equipment, and supplies needed for the middle school band program.
5. Any Student Using a School Instrument – responsible for a rental fee of \$100. This fee is necessary for yearly maintenance and repair on the instruments, so students down the road will have a quality instrument to play on.
6. All Band Students – responsible for having a complete HMS Band Uniform, which includes the band polo tucked in with a belt, long khaki pants, closed-toe dress shoes (flat is preferred), and tall dark socks.
7. All Band Students – responsible for having their instrument in class every day.
8. All Band Students – responsible for purchasing supplies needed for their instrument (reeds, valve oil, care kit, sticks, mallets, book, etc.).
9. All Band Students – required to attend ALL performance. The only excused absences will be a death in the immediate family or personal sickness (a doctor's note is required). In either case, the director should be notified via email. ***Students with unexcused absences from any band performance are subject to removal from the Hernando Middle School Band Program.***

PERFORMANCES

Performing is an essential part of any young musician's life. As part of our music education curriculum, we require each band student to perform multiple times during the year, and each of the performances is considered a major test grade. Each grade-level band will perform at the end of each semester.

The 8th Grade Band is also responsible for playing at two middle school football games and at one high school football game. The 8th Grade Concert Band will perform at a concert festival for evaluation in the spring.

Students will also participate in our Solo and Ensemble Festival by learning and performing a piece of solo or small ensemble literature.

Dates for all required performances can be found on the 2022-2023 HMS Band Date Sheet and on the band website (hernandobands.com).

PRACTICE AND MUSICAL ENRICHMENT

Practicing is an essential part of playing your instrument. There is no substitute for consistent, disciplined daily practice. In band, your homework is practice time at home. When one person doesn't practice, it hurts the entire band's progress. Don't let others down; do your part!

As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it. Band will not be as rewarding unless you practice! There are many values in the study of music as a discipline that transfer to other areas of life. Although this will not immediately happen, persistent practice will eventually lead to enthusiastic, driven practice. Remember: "Perfect Practice makes Perfect!"

During your practice sessions, you should strive to cover as many components of playing as possible, beginning with the Four T's: Timing, Tuning, Tone, and Technique. Practice sessions do not have to be long. In fact, it is better to give yourself breaks and work in shorter amounts of time to avoid tension and exhaustion.

Remember: A few minutes of quality practice is better than many minutes of bad practice.

Helpful Tips for Efficient and Successful Practice Sessions:

- Pick a set time each day
- Have a designated place to practice
- Stretch and do breathing exercises prior to warm-up
- Use the daily warm-up that is used in class and think “tone”
- Play scales during every practice session
- Take breaks as needed
- Work on technique (articulations, accents, etc.)
- Practice sight-reading during every practice session
- Be musical and use the tuner for part of you practice session
- Increase your dynamic range (work pianissimo to fortissimo)
- Increase your endurance (work to play for longer stretches of time)
- Increase your range (highest note with a good tone)
- Use a metronome during your practice session

Sample Practice Session:

1. Stretch
2. Breathing exercises
3. Buzzing or mouthpiece tones
4. Listen to two minutes of a recording of an accomplished artist on your instrument (recommendations on the next page)
5. Warm up
 - a. Remington exercises
 - b. Major and chromatic scales
 - c. Rudiments (percussion)
 - d. Lip slurs (brass)
 - e. Dynamic exercises
 - f. Articulation exercises (woodwinds and brass)
 - g. Hand speed and rhythmic exercises (percussion)
6. Rhythm A Day
7. Literature
 - a. Method book lines
 - b. Rubank book lines (if applicable)
 - c. Concert, Solo/Ensemble music
8. Sight-Reading
9. Warm Down
 - a. Long tones
 - b. Breathing

Recommended Artists

An instrumentalist cannot duplicate a characteristic sound on their instrument without an appropriate model to emulate. Below are suggestions of artists for each instrument. Every student in the Hernando Band program should be familiar with the artists associated with their instrument.

Flute	Jean-Pierre Rampal, Amy Porter, Carol Wincenc, Mathieu Dufour
Clarinet	Harold Wright, Larry Combs, Jon Manasse, Shira Kammen
Saxophone	Eugene Rousseau, Joseph Lulloff, Steven Mauk, Don Sinta, Claude Delangle
Oboe	Joseph Robinson, John Mack, Ray Still
Bassoon	Bubonic Bassoon Quartet, Christopher Millard, David McGill
Trumpet	Phil Smith, Chris Martin, Tim Morrison, Adolph Herseth
Horn	Dale Clevenger, Dennis Brain, Phil Myers
Trombone	Joseph Alessi, Christian Lindberg, Charlie Vernon
Baritone	Brian Bowman, Roger Behrend, Steven Mead, Gail Robertson
Tuba	Arnold Jacobs, Sam Pilafian, Gene Pokorny, Patrick Sheridan
Mallets	Mark Ford, Nancy Zeltsman, Leigh Howard Stevens, Eriko Daimo
Drums	Santa Clara Vanguard, Benny Greb, Buddy Rich, Rob Knopper

INFORMATION ESPECIALLY FOR PARENTS

The Hernando Band program is blessed with fantastic support from our parent organization and from the community as a whole as a result. We hope that you will join us in encouraging your children to achieve excellence in whatever they do. In music, practice and attendance at rehearsals and performances is incredibly important and will require parent support.

Guidelines:

1. Student attendance is important. Please do not allow students to miss events for unexcused reasons.
2. Students should practice consistently. Have your student play for you occasionally. Encourage excellence from them!
3. Become involved with your student's band activities. Your presence at our events means a lot to your child and the other students in our program. Volunteering is a great way to be involved, and extra help is always needed. Information on our outstanding booster organization can be found below.
4. Make positive and encouraging comments about practice session and performances. Our attitudes reflect on our students, which in turn affects their performance.
5. Encourage good sportsmanship toward each other and to members of other bands at all times.

Band Booster Organization

The purpose of the Hernando Band Boosters is to promote and support the activities of the band students and performing ensembles of the Hernando Middle School and Hernando High School Bands. The boosters promote and encourage:

- Musical excellence in the program
- Teamwork and cooperation in all activities
- An environment of mutual respect and dignity
- The communication of the exceptional quality of the program to the community at large

All parents/guardians are encouraged to become active members of the Band Booster organization. A booster meeting is held each month during the school year. See the HMS Band Date Sheet for specifics. All boosters are encouraged to volunteer their time and effort in the support of these amazing young people.

Attendance at performances in an enjoyable activity and an excellent way for parents to show their support of their child's talents and interests.

How Parents Can Help

When a “band question” arises, it is important that you get factual information from the correct source. Sometimes, more harm is done to the band family when incorrect information is shared through the organization. When in doubt, remember the following: ***If it is a performance issue or anything dealing with the band proper, contact a director. If it is a fundraising question or anything dealing with parent volunteer issues, contact the appropriate member of the Booster Board.*** Below are some other helpful tips for band parents:

- Show an interest in the music study of your child.
- Take woodwind instruments to the shop for routine maintenance once a year.
- If your child is a brass player, ask them when they last gave their horn a bath.
- Help your child find a quiet place to practice without interruption.
- Stay current on any fees. Please contact a director if you need assistance.
- Help the student maintain a consistent practice schedule and incentivize daily practice.
- Keep the instrument in good repair and keep all necessary materials on hand (at least three reeds, valve oil, etc.)
- Be extra-careful with school-owned instruments.
- Teach your child to be prepared and early to each rehearsal or performance.
- Provide private lessons if possible.
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities important.
- Help your child keep up with important dates and schedules.
- Keep this handbook and refer to it often.
- Notify the directors in a timely manner if any attendance issues arise.
- Visit after-school rehearsals occasionally.
- Attend booster meetings, concerts, games, and parades.
- Participate in fundraisers throughout the year.
- Please pick up or arrange for your child to be picked up within 15 minutes of the end of a rehearsal or performance if at all possible.

COMMUNICATION

As with any large organization, communication is key to the success of the students. Please assist us by staying informed and helping others do the same! For middle school band this year, you can use all of the options below.

Remind:

Please create a free account with Remind and join the appropriate class for your student. This is information specific to middle school students.

1st Period: @hmsband-1

2nd Period: @hmsband-2

3rd Period: @hmsband-3

4th Period: @hmsband-4

5th Period: @hmsband-5

Band App:

Please download the band app onto your device and join the Hernando Bands page using the QR code below. Please note that this is a page for middle school and high school students, so not all information is relevant to you.



Facebook Group:

Please join the private Hernando Bands Facebook group using the QR code below.. Please note that this is a page for middle school and high school students, so not all information is relevant to you.



Email Blast:

The email you provide when you turn in the Band Handbook Form will be added to the HMS Band Weekly Update email blast that will go out at the beginning of each week. If you would like additional email addresses added to the list, please contact Mr. Quinnelly.

Hopefully, this band handbook has been helpful in addressing any questions and/or concerns you may have about the Hernando Middle School Band program. Following many questions, misunderstandings, and issues in the past over band policies and procedures, the band staff felt it would be helpful to provide you with this overview of rules, expectations, and policies for the 2022-2023 school year. The policies and procedures of the HMS Band were designed to provide the most positive and successful learning environment for the band members. Please complete and sign the handbook form and then attach it to the student's Dragonfly account. This should be completed no later than Friday, August 12, 2022. Your completed form confirms that you have read, understand, and are willing to comply by the rules, expectations, and policies found in this handbook.

Thank you,

Joseph Quinnelly, Director of Middle School Bands

Tyler Harris, Assistant Director of Bands

Victoria Jones, Assistant Director of Bands

Len Killough, Director of Bands

Dr. Jerry Floate, Principal

HERNANDO MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

Contract for Band 2022-2023

Please complete, sign, and turn in the following to Dragonfly...

Due: August 12, 2022

We have read and understand the information contained in the Hernando Middle School Band Handbook.

Class Period: _____ Grade: _____

Instrument: _____

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name (print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Home Phone: _____

Dad's Work Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Mom's Work Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Student Email: _____

Parent Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Shirt Size: _____ (these are adult sizes)

Please include your shirt size even if you don't need a new band polo.