

Ida Band Contract/Family Information Sheet – Due By 9/12/2023

*For Each Day this form is late, 1 point will be deducted from the student's participation grade

Student Name _____

- We have read the Ida Band Handbook and understand and agree to all policies as stated
- We have placed all dates on the family calendar for easy reference

Student Signature: _____ **Primary Phone #:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Secondary Phone #:** _____

Best time to call: _____

Parent Name(s) (printed): _____

Parent e-mail address (printed neatly): _____

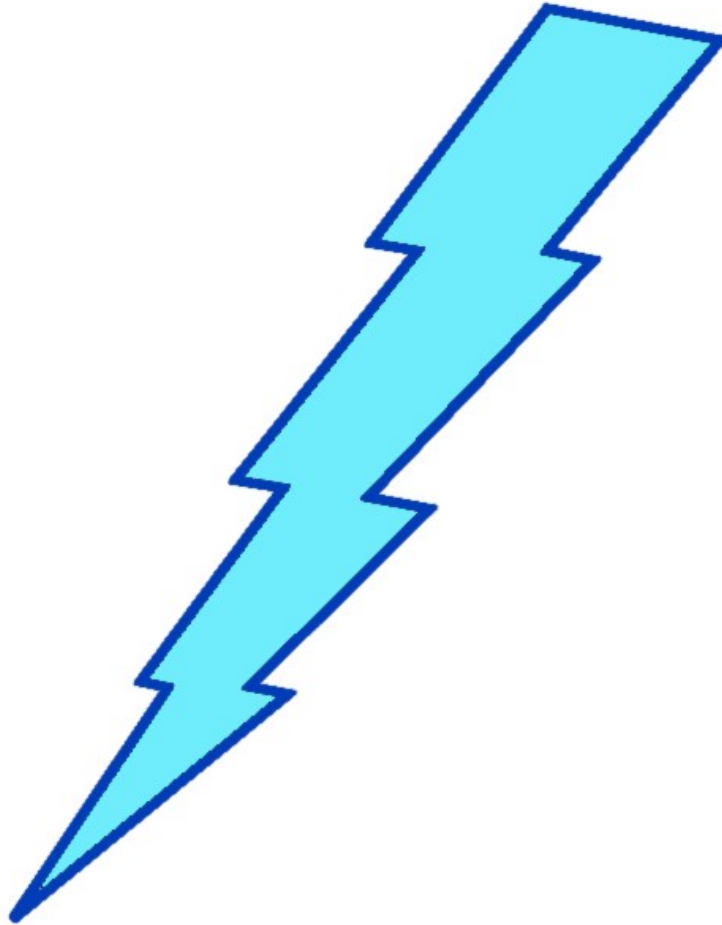
Parents, are you willing to be contacted by the Ida Band Boosters for information about upcoming fundraising opportunities, requests for chaperones, etc.?

Yes _____ **No** _____

**Tear this page off and
return to Mr. Bennett.**

**KEEP THE REST OF
THE BOOK FOR
YOUR REFERENCE!**

IDA MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND



BAND PROGRAM SYLLABUS AND HANDBOOK

(7TH AND 8TH GRADE BAND)

2023-2024

DIRECTOR OF BANDS

Christopher Bennett

bennett@idaschools.org

WELCOME TO BAND!

You are about to embark on one of the most life-changing adventures possible and I am VERY excited about your dedication to your instrument, love of music, and your commitment to be a part of this experience with your fellow band members and I. The Ida Middle School Band Program has been a model of excellence for many years and we will get even better in years to come. Being a member of an organization with a tradition of excellence can be fun, challenging, and very rewarding. Please read through the handbook thoroughly. It is designed to help you understand the policies, procedures, and philosophies of our band program. These guidelines are very important and help make our goals of excellence a reality.

If there is any information that you feel is not covered in the handbook, please ask Mr. Bennett for guidance and assistance. I am happy to help you in any way possible.

A MESSAGE FOR BAND PARENTS

While much of the band handbook is designed with the students in mind, it was also developed to inform you, as parents, of the various policies and expectations of band families that will exist throughout our time together.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to share my love of music with your child, and to teach them how to use their musical talents as an outlet for artistic expression, a place to excel, and as a way to learn life lessons that will last a lifetime.

I ask that you continue in the support of your child and the band program by attending as many performances as you can, monitoring/encouraging home practice, volunteering as you are able, and being an advocate for the ideals that the Ida Middle School Band works to establish.

Please read through this handbook *with* your child and familiarize yourselves with the information it contains. I ask that you then complete the contract and information sheet which states that you have read and will support these policies.

OBJECTIVES AND PHILOSOPHY

The primary objectives of the Ida Middle School Band program are to provide each student with valuable musical, educational, and life experiences through:

- Learning music by its actual performance
- Developing performance skills of the various wind and percussion instruments
- Providing for the musical needs of the school and the community
- Developing discrimination with the regards to the selection of music
- Acquainting the students with Music Theory / History and how history and musical composition relate to students' current life and musical experiences
- Providing all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience
- Developing the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhancing interaction, and developing Esprit de Corps
- Fostering leadership skills within each student

Students' growth and development will be achieved through review of the basics of music and introduction of advanced music concepts in alignment with the Michigan Merit Curriculum, introduction of new responsibilities of Marching Band, Solo and Ensemble, and Full Band Festival, and exposure to outside resources as a means of feedback resulting in stronger self-satisfaction and higher self-esteem.

Being an Ida Middle School Band member involves accepting the responsibility of being part of an organization in which **all** members depend on the contributions and effort of each other in order to achieve success. It is simply not possible to have an excellent band without the full cooperation of all its members. In a traditional classroom, poor work by a student only hurts that student. In band, however, poor work by a student hurts the entire group!

The expectations are high, but the rewards are many, and are potentially life changing. As a dedicated band member, something happens to you so that the organization becomes YOUR BAND - you are intensely proud to be part of it!

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

BAND BOOSTER MEETINGS

Ida Band Booster meetings are a great way to meet fellow parents, officers, and band staff. It is also a great way to find out more about upcoming events and participate in the official business of the Boosters. Please refer to the calendar at the end of this handbook for specific dates and times of these meetings. All parents of band members are welcome and there is **no fee to participate**.

ONLINE INFORMATION

Google Classroom: ALL BAND MEMBERS ARE TO REGISTER FOR THEIR CLASS!

7th Grade Band: [xxuvqxu](#) (required of ALL 7th Grade Band students)

8th Grade [mfypbbw](#) (required of ALL 8th Grade Band students)

Receive “Remind” texts: AT LEAST ONE PARENT SHOULD SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THESE TEXTS

7th Grade text @idaband29 to 81010

8th Grade text @idaband28 to 81010

Follow us on Facebook: search for “Ida Band Program”

Instagram Account: @idamiband

E-MAIL

Despite numerous social media platforms that the band program has embraced, e-mail has been found to be the most effective and efficient way to share timely information with parents. E-mail will be sent periodically using Infinite Campus – if you do not receive these emails, it means you do not have an address on file with the office. Contact them to make sure they have your e-mail address on file.

FEES AND COSTS

- The cost of all instrument (reeds, oils, sticks, etc.) and class supplies (pencil, binder, sheet protectors) are the responsibility of the student and their family.
- Scholarship opportunities are available to assist families in need of assistance in covering any fees students incur (except for the optional events). Parents of students that would benefit from these scholarships should contact Mr. Bennett (bennett@idaschools.org) for more information. **No student should be without necessary supplies or forced not to participate due to financial reasons.**

COURSE SYLLABUS AND EXPECTATIONS

MEMBERSHIP

As team-work and responsibility to others are important cornerstones of the IMS Band program, **band members are required to participate in the band program for the entire school year.** It is also important to note that the band event calendar does not break evenly into 2 semesters – students joining or quitting at the semester break would cause performance difficulties for the remaining band members.

REHEARSALS

- Seventh and Eighth Grade Bands rehearse for one class period daily in school.
- Seventh and Eighth grade bands will combine for their band festival assessment. In preparation for this, Eighth Grade Band members will each attend two Seventh Grade Band rehearsals. There will also be a few after school rehearsals scheduled for the band members to allow the group to prepare without missing other classes.
- In certain circumstances, students may be requested to use band class time to make up assignments for other classes. This is strongly discouraged as it creates a disruption to the curriculum and group work aspects of the class. If a student is involved in a program or plan that addresses this need (IEP and certain 504 plans) students will be released as specified by the plan. For requests that do not fall under these plans, the request will be considered based on requests from the teacher via email and at least one day in advance.

PRACTICE RECORDS/PLAYING ASSIGNMENTS/“WRITTEN” ASSIGNMENTS

- Students will complete either a practice assignment, playing assignment, or “written” assignment (assignment based on music theory or history that doesn’t require playing the instrument) each week. This allows the teacher to gauge the progress of the individual members of the band and should make the students aware of the importance of spending individual time on their instruments to contribute to the goals of the group. It is also a method of including parents aware of their child’s efforts. **As this and a few concerts are the only assignments that the students are required to take part in outside of class, please make sure students are participating and turning in these assignments.**
- Assignments will be due on Fridays (or the last day of the week). Assignments that are turned in late will be accepted for partial (half) credit for one week after the due date. **The assignments will not be accepted over a week late.** If the student is absent or sick during the time frame that the assignments are due, the teacher must be emailed prior to the due date to come up with options to accommodate the situation.

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Listen and follow directions.
2. Raise your hand to speak during class.
3. Stay in your seat once class begins.
4. Be prepared and on time for class.
5. Do not touch other students' instruments or personal belongings.
6. Respect your classmates and teacher.
7. Do not bring gum, food, or drinks (other than water) to class.
8. Keep your hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.
9. Put all equipment away properly at the end of class.
10. At the end of class, wait to be dismissed – do not crowd the door or run out of the room.

*All school rules and policies found in the student handbook are to be observed in class.

**Rules may be added or changed at a later time.

CONSEQUENCES

1. Warning
2. Conversation/loss of points
3. Parent notification and/or write-up

Certain infractions or repeated infractions can change the order that these consequences are issued.

GRADING SCALE

Performances/extra rehearsals (200 points each)	30% of final grade
<i>Excused absence</i>	-loss of 100 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An excused absence is an absence that is relayed in writing at least one week in advance of a performance or sickness or family emergency that is relayed in writing the next time the student is in class.• Students may receive full credit from an excused absence by doing a makeup performance for the director.	
<i>Unexcused absence</i>	-loss of 200 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An unexcused is an absence that is not relayed in writing, not relayed at least one week in advance of a performance, or sickness or family emergency that is not relayed in writing the next time the student is in class.• No opportunities for make-up will be provided from an unexcused absence)	
<i>Misbehavior at a performance</i>	-loss of 25 to 200 points
<i>Failure to wear appropriate uniform to performance</i>	-loss of 125 points
Attendance/participation/listening (6 points per day)	30% of final grade
<i>Lack of preparation for rehearsal</i>	-loss of 2 points
<i>Tardiness</i>	-loss of 2 points
<i>Lack of necessary items (see attached supply list)</i>	-loss of 2 points
<i>Failure to listen</i>	-loss of 1 or 2 points
<i>Misbehavior (after initial warning)</i>	-loss of 2 points
<i>Late handbook contract</i>	-loss of 1 point per day
Technical/theory/history/reflection assignments	40% of final grade
<i>These assignments will include</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Playing assignments completed in person, using SMARTMUSIC, or Google Classroom○ Practice assignments completed in person or using Google Classroom○ Theory assignments completed in person, using Google Classroom, or handouts in class○ History assignments completed in person or using Google Classroom○ Grade check/reflection journals	
Extra credit opportunities	
Attendance at extra concerts/music related events (limit 4)	50 points each
Honors bands/orchestra (limit 2 per marking period)	100 points each
Student specific assignments arranged with director (limit 4)	50 points each

UNIFORM POLICIES AND INFORMATION

What you wear on TOP:

Blue Polo Shirt
Plain white t-shirt under the polo (recommended)
Bottom button buttoned

What you wear on BOTTOM:

Plain black pants

- No holes
- No pinstripes or other patterns
- Must be full-length
- Must meet school dress code
- Shirts will be tucked in to the pants ALL THE WAY AROUND

Plain black socks

- Calf length (no naked ankles)
- No other color
- No patterns or other colors included – plain

Plain black shoes

- No open toes
- No sandals
- No high heels – heels must be lower than 2 inches
- No other color
- No patterns or other colors included – plain

Plain black belt

- Optional, but encouraged
- No large buckles
- No studs or other patterns
- No other color
- No patterns or other colors included – plain

Frequently asked Questions about uniforms:

1. **What if I don't have these clothes?** This is why you are being told what you need well in advance. You need to get them
2. **What if I can't afford it?** Have your parents contact me privately. We will figure something out. **See section on Costs and Fees for more information.**
3. **Can I wear a skirt?** No
4. **Can I wear jeans?** Are they plain and black? If so, then yes. If not, no.
5. **Can I wear tennis shoes?** Are they plain and black? If so, then yes. If not, no.
6. **Can I wear flip flops?** No
7. **Do I have to tuck in my shirt?** Yes
8. **Can I wear dark blue, dark brown, or dark grey?** No

PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTIONS

What follows is a general description of performances that take place during the school year. Please refer back to this as the year progresses if you have any questions about the event. You will receive more specific information each year as the event approaches.

- ❖ **HOMECOMING REHEARSAL** – To prepare the students for the Homecoming performance, rehearsal for all high school and middle school (7th and 8th grade) band members Thursday evening the week of Homecoming. All students will meet (weather permitting) on the football field at 7:00 pm. Students will be dismissed from the middle school band room at 9:00 pm.
- ❖ **HOMECOMING PARADE/HALFTIME PERFORMANCE** – For these performances, the seventh and eighth grade bands combine with high school band. **Shortly after the school day is completed, the band boosters will provide pizza for the 7th-12th grade band members.** This will be followed by a parade, a brief rehearsal, and halftime performance of the Homecoming Varsity Football Game.
- ❖ **CHRISTMAS COLLAGE CONCERT** – Held at 2:00 pm on the Sunday of Christmas in Ida weekend, this is our all-school holiday concert. The bands perform this concert in a “collage” format that is held in the High School Gymnasium.
- ❖ **SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL** – This festival focuses on the individual player and the ability for students to put small groups of musicians together to perform and be evaluated by a professional music educator/judge. This festival is usually held at Livonia Franklin High School. It is always held on a Saturday in late January or early February and is not required of students.
- ❖ **DISTRICT BAND FESTIVAL/PRE-FESTIVAL CONCERT** - At this festival (held in March), the entire band will be evaluated by a panel of music educators/adjudicators. Each band will prepare three pieces and sight-read two pieces. The site of the festival will be announced sometime in mid-winter.
-To prepare for the festival, we have a concert shortly before the event. If possible, we will bring in music educators to provide last-minute suggestions to improve the band’s performance at the festival.
- ❖ **SPRING CONCERT** – Our final performance of the year is held at 6:00 pm in May. This concert features various middle school bands performing music that is light in nature. This often includes Rock Music, Movie Music, and Novelty Pieces.

2023-2024 BAND EVENTS FOR IMS 7th and 8th Grade BANDS

- September 13**
(Wednesday) **Band Booster Meeting**
7:00 PM In the High School Library – elective event for parents
- October 5**
(Thursday) **Homecoming Rehearsal (7th - 12th Grade)**
7:00-9:00 PM at the football stadium
- October 6**
(Friday) **Homecoming Parade & Halftime Performance (7th-12th Grade)**
3:30 Pizza/5:00 Parade/7:00 Game – more details to come
- November 15**
(Wednesday) **Band Booster Meeting**
7:00 PM In the High School Library – elective event for parents
- December 3**
(Sunday) **Christmas Collage Concert (7th - 12th Grade)**
2:00 PM In the High School Gym – more details to come
- January 10**
(Wednesday) **Band Booster Meeting**
7:00 PM In the High School Library – elective event for parents
- January 23**
(Tuesday) **Combined rehearsal**
(8th grade woodwinds with entire 7th grade band)
During the seventh grade band hour of the school day. Eighth grade woodwind players will miss one hour of their regular schedule classes.
- January 30**
(Tuesday) **Combined rehearsal**
(8th grade brass and percussion with entire 7th grade band)
During the seventh grade band hour of the school day. Eighth grade brass and percussion players will miss one hour of their regular schedule classes.
- February 3**
(Saturday) **MSBOA Solo and Ensemble Festival**
Elective event for 7th and 8th Grade Band Members.
Held at Livonia Franklin HS

2023-2024 BAND EVENTS FOR IMS 7th and 8th Grade BANDS

(continued)

February 6
(Tuesday)

Combined rehearsal
(entire 8th grade band with entire 7th grade band)

During the seventh grade band hour of the school day. Eighth grade band members will miss one hour of their regular schedule classes.

February 6
(Tuesday)

Winter Band Concert (7th-8th Grade)
7:00 PM in the Middle School Cafeteria

February 13
(Tuesday)

After school rehearsal (7th and 8th Grade)
3:30-4:30 in the Middle School Band Room

February 20
(Tuesday)

After school rehearsal (7th and 8th Grade)
3:30-4:30 in the Middle School Band Room

February 27
(Tuesday)

After school rehearsal (7th and 8th Grade)
3:30-4:30 in the Middle School Band Room

Feb 29/March 1-2
(One of these days)

MSBOA District Band Festival (7th and 8th Grade)
Date, Time, and Location TBA

March 13
(Wednesday)

Band Booster Meeting
7:00 PM In the High School Library – elective event for parents

May 9
(Thursday)

Spring Band Concert (5th-8th Grade)
6:00 PM in the Middle School Cafeteria

June 12
(Wednesday)

Band Booster Meeting
7:00 PM In the High School Library – elective event for parents