

Cityside Middle School Band
6th Grade Band Handbook
2024-2025

Class Procedures and Expectations

1. Check the screen and Google Classroom for daily announcements, class objectives, and assignments. Get out all necessary materials (instrument, accessories, music stand, music, PENCIL).
2. Remember to raise your hand if you wish to have the attention of the class.
3. The only things found on your music stand should be: your music, book and pencil. The stands were not designed to hold binders or textbooks (or instruments... or people!).
4. Only percussionists may touch the percussion equipment.
5. You may play the piano after receiving permission from the teacher.
6. Nobody is allowed to touch an instrument that does not belong to them.
7. This class may not be recorded in any way without the prior permission of the instructor. Devices are to be kept under your chair unless we are using them.
8. If you are bringing in money for any reason, please make sure you place it in an envelope (with your name and what the money is for written on the outside).

Band Books

6th Grade - *Essential Elements Book 1* (If you rented an instrument from Meyer Music you already have this at school. If you don't have it already, send in \$10 cash or check to *Cityside Band*).

Grading

1. Classroom participation, class work and practice records - 20% of your grade

Students will earn five participation points per day. Students who do not have their instrument will receive a zero. Students who are missing music or their band book will get partial credit. Making a habit of forgetting class materials will result in writing a CBC plan. Directors reserve the right to withhold performing opportunities from students who do not regularly participate in class or fulfill class requirements. This would be considered an excused absence with an assignment made available to make up the performance grade.

Students will also receive a grade for at home practicing. This is your homework for band. In order for you to improve, and for all students in the group to have a positive experience, it is necessary for you to practice. Students are required to practice 60 minutes per week. Practice charts will be due every week. If you are too ill to practice, please write "sick" on the practice record for that day and you will not lose points. Students who take lessons on piano may use their piano practicing to count for half of their weekly requirement.

2. Written and Playing tests - 40% of your grade

Students have several assessment opportunities throughout each semester. Some examples are playing quizzes or written exams. Some playing tests will be live, but most will be recorded on the chromebooks. We follow the Cityside Retake Policy for retakes.

3. Performance attendance - 40% of your grade

Performance attendance is mandatory for every band student. Excused absences from performances include: illness with parent/guardian contact, family emergency with parent/guardian contact, notification of absence at least 2 weeks prior to the performance date by a parent/guardian (family vacation/activity).

If you are excused from the performance, you will need to do a make-up assignment to receive full credit for the absence. It is your responsibility to communicate to the director and arrange make-up work.

Unexcused absences from performances include: not attending without parent/guardian contact, illness without parent/guardian contact, family emergency without parent/guardian contact, notification of absence less than 2 weeks prior to the performance, sports obligations (I'm a coach too, so just communicate in advance about conflicts).

Any unexcused absence cannot be made up and will result in a zero for the performance grade.

Fund Raising

Fundraising is necessary to run school programs like band. Our one and only band fundraiser for this year will be held during September 24 - October 8. More information will be handed out soon.

School Equipment

The band department is able to loan out large instruments for student use. These instruments are extremely expensive to replace. All students who are issued a school instrument will be asked to pay an annual fee of \$75.00. This fee will cover common repairs that are a result of everyday use; however, the fee does not cover any damage that is the result of misuse or neglect. If you are using an instrument from school, forms and payment requests will be sent out in the fall. No money needs to be sent in right now.

Other Supplies

Reeds can be purchased in the band office. Clarinet reeds are \$2.00 each and saxophone reeds are \$3.00 each. If you need any other supplies, Meyer Music delivers to our school once per week. If you order from them over the phone, you can request school delivery and save a trip.

Performance Dress Code

We ask all students to follow the dress code. Parents, thanks for your help in this.

6th Grade Band

1. Cityside 6th Grade band t-shirt - The cost is \$15 (more information on the last page of this packet).
Please be aware that we redesigned the 6th grade band shirts in 2021. Check with your teacher before using an older sibling's shirt.
2. Black dress pants.
3. Black shoes with black socks (remember that we march in these shoes)

The following items do not meet the dress code:

1. Tennis Shoes that are anything but solid black
 2. Platform shoes or heels in which it is difficult to walk
 3. Zip-off pants, capris, black jeans, cargo pants, sweat pants, or decorated pants.
- I would be happy to help if you need assistance with purchasing any part of the uniform, but please give me plenty of notice. If you have any uniform items that you would like to donate, send them to Mrs. Garcia or Mr. Good

Discipline Procedure

Students will be warned if their behavior is interrupting class. If the student chooses to be part of the solution, much can be forgiven. If poor choices in behavior become frequent, the student will be sent to the CBC (Chix Building Character) room or the office (parents will be notified at this point). As long as you listen the *first* time and are kind to other students, you will stay on the right track.

Volunteer opportunities

Parents, if you would like to volunteer to help the band with parades, concerts, special events, video taping performances, or chaperoning class activities we ask that you complete the volunteer background check process in Cityside's main office (you may have already done this). Once this is finished, you can contact me if you would like to get involved. Cityside parents have always been very generous with their time, so I thank all of you for your kindness in advance.

Communication

Many important documents will come home via email through Parent Portal. Please make sure that you have a current email address with that system so that you receive class communications. The band website is an additional source of information about upcoming events (citysideband.org).

Calendar

- September 9, 2024 - First day of playing with instruments for Flutes, Clarinets, Trumpets, and Trombones!
- September 24, 2024 - Band Fundraiser Kick-off
- October 1, 2024 - Band Fundraiser Lollipop Draw
- October 8, 2024 - Band Fundraiser Turn in Day
- December 12, 2024 - Winter Concert - 6:30 PM at Zeeland East High School

Early March 2025 - Concert during the school day for 5th Graders.

March 25, 2025 - Spring Concert - 6:30 PM at Zeeland East High School

May 26, 2025 - Memorial Day Parade 9:00 AM in Downtown Zeeland

Final Thoughts

We are looking forward to starting this year. It is nice to see so many students who enjoy music. Cityside 6th-8th Grade Bands will represent our school before thousands of people this year, including parades and concerts. You are the biggest public representation of our school, and we couldn't ask for a better group of young people to take on this challenge. We know this packet has a lot of rules and regulations, but we want everybody to understand the expectations up front so that there are no surprises later. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We would be happy to help.

Musically yours,

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