



Dr. John Long Middle School Bands

2019-2020 BAND HANDBOOK

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Welcome/Overview

WELCOME and THANK YOU for your deciding to be a member of the JLMS Band program! As a member of the JLMS Bands, your child will learn to play an instrument, make new friends, and have fun all while developing a greater appreciation for the performing arts.

At JLMS, we promote the highest of musical standards to ensure a quality experience for both you and your child. To find success on our band program, it is important to maintain a quality level of behavior both in and out of the classroom, develop a strong work ethic, and be respectful to everyone and everything in the band room. Teamwork and positive attitudes are vital to student success.

Typically, much of the information you need as a band parent does not make it home. Communication is key! Students and parents can receive regular band updates by signing up for Remind. Please visit the band website (www.jlmsband.com) on a regular basis for more information about the band program. We also have a Facebook page where you can see photos and information about the band.

Also, please contact your band director if you need ANYTHING AT ALL! I am here for you and your child. Please email/call me with any questions, comments, or concerns. I am here to help. My contact information is on the front cover of this handbook.

Why Take Band?

1. Our students find the social interaction provided by band membership as rewarding as the quality and entertaining musical training they receive.
2. The band room is definitely a “home away from home” for many of our students.
3. The study of music has been long documented as a major contributor to the success of students in academics.
4. Band students typically represent the top of the academic scale at our school

Discipline Policy

-Students will show respect at all times toward the director, parents, chaperones, school officials and other students. They will also be respectful of school property, and the property of others.

-Gum, candy, food or drinks are NOT allowed in the band, on busses, during rehearsals or performances without director permission. Water is OK.

-Smoking, tobacco products, or alcohol is prohibited by anyone entering the JLMS campus. This policy also applies to anyone representing JLMS Band during off campus activities.

-Students should plan to ride the bus when it is provided for scheduled events. Prior arrangements need to be made IN WRITING if a parent plans to transport a student to or from an activity where bus transportation is provided. This policy assures the safety and accountability of all students.

-Always be on time! Every effort will be made to start and end rehearsals or performances on time. If a rehearsal is scheduled to end at 5:00 p.m. you should plan to pick up your child at that time. You are always welcome at any rehearsal or performance. The ending times for some performances are more difficult to estimate. Your flexibility on this issue is greatly appreciated. (continued on next page)

-Demonstrate positive behavior at all times. Disruptive, irresponsible or inappropriate behavior cannot be tolerated while representing the John Long Middle School Band.

-Students are responsible for issued items. This may include but not limited to: instrument, supplies, uniform, lock, music, flip folder, music folder etc. Replacement or repair fees may be assessed if items become lost or damaged.

Classroom Rules

1. DO NOT TALK when the director is on the podium. The band room is already a very loud environment without excessive talking.
2. NO GUM, CANDY, SODA, or FOOD is permitted in the band room. Water is OK.
3. Be RESPECTFUL of EVERYONE and EVERYTHING in the band room. We are all here for a common goal. Be polite and nice to others. Also, be respectful of the instruments and personal property of others. DO NOT TOUCH AN INSTRUMENT THAT IS NOT YOURS.
4. If you make a mess, please clean it up. A clean band room helps to support a positive learning environment.

If any of these rules are broken, the chain of disciplinary action is as follows*:

1. Verbal warning
2. 2nd verbal warning and point deduction from overall grade and/or lunch detention
3. Sit out of class activities and/or complete a writing assignment
4. Parent phone call/email discussing the behavior
5. Written office referral

*Severe discipline issues may result in removal from the band program!

Home Practice Guide

Practice is an integral part of learning how to play a musical instrument. Students should plan to practice AT LEAST 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week (100 minutes total per week) outside of band class. This is the MINIMUM amount of practicing for students to progress through their band experience. Students excel quickly when they establish a practice routine and when they practice more than the bare minimum. You may have to start with 10 minutes a day and gradually work up to 20 or more minutes. Practicing daily develops tone, technique and endurance. You will progress much slower if you skip days then try to make up time by practicing longer.

In order to have an efficient practice session, students should break down their music into small sections to focus on before attempting to play an entire piece. Sometimes, this means working on one measure at a time. This process of “musical chunking” will set up your child for success. Band takes patience and hard work!

Private Lessons

Private lessons are not required BUT they are strongly encouraged. As band classes are rather large, covering technique with every student every day is not possible. Private instructors can easily assess many issues in the one-on-one setting to develop important skills and techniques. If you would like to enroll your child in private lessons, there are many outlets to choose from. Many local music stores offer lessons. Also, the University of South Florida is home to many professors and students who teach privately. Please speak to your band director for more information.

Band Fair Share

Each student is required to pay an annual fee of \$30.00. This yearly payment is vital to run a successful band program and will contribute towards the following:

- A new band tee shirt each year (colors will change yearly)
- Upkeep and maintenance for all school owned instruments/equipment
- Regularly purchasing new drum sticks, mallets, instruments, and equipment
- Transportation for all off campus performances/activities
- Regularly purchasing new music for performances

The band fair share should be paid as soon as possible so that the tee shirt order can be placed in time for our first performances of the year. PLEASE TRY TO PAY YOUR FAIR SHARE AT REGISTRATION OR DURING THE FIRST WEEKS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

Courses/Ensembles Available

Beginning Band

-All students new to band should enroll in this course. Through beginning band, students will learn to read and understand music, develop vital teamwork/problem solving skills, and grow as musicians on their primary instrument. Students begin the year learning the basics of music. After a few weeks of instruction, students are able to select the instrument they would like to play. If your child selects oboe, bassoon, euphonium, or tuba, the school will likely provide these instruments. All other instruments must be rented or purchased. In this handbook, you will find a list of local music stores and online retailers to help guide you through the process.

-Instruments will be selected for students based on your child's level of class participation, musical aptitude, and overall attitude/behavior. Though the student's instrument preference is considered, students are placed on instruments where they will find success. Also, selections are based on instrumentation. Instruments such as oboe, bassoon, French horn, and percussion will be reserved for the top performing students in the first few weeks of the year. These instruments require A LOT of practice time and patience!

Intermediate Band

-Most 7th grade students will enroll in this course. Students must complete one year of beginning band before they are allowed to enroll in this course. Intermediate Band is a time where skills learned in beginning band are expanded on and developed. There is a strong emphasis on ensemble playing and individual musical growth. This is the time students "wake up" musically and become serious musicians. Percussion students assigned to this class will meet in a separate percussion class.

Advanced Band

-This course is open to 7th and 8th graders who have completed at least one year of beginning band and have passed an selection process. Students are placed in this group based on playing test scores, work ethic, and behavior. The Advanced band meets on occasion after school for rehearsal and performs outside of the school day more often. Students in Advanced band are REQUIRED to audition for the Pasco All-County Band. Percussion students assigned to this class will meet in a separate percussion class. A pep band comprised of select wind and percussion students will perform at football games and other miscellaneous events/activities. The pep band will rehearse regularly after school to learn additional music.

Grading Policy (by Ensemble)

To have a truly successful program it is imperative that every band member attends and participates in ALL the scheduled rehearsals and performances of their respective class. The District School Board of Pasco County lists Band as a co-curricular course, which means attendance, before, during, or after school, is essential and a required component of the course. To help facilitate scheduling concerns, all students and parents will have access to our band calendar. Remember, performances and rehearsals are considered grades and cannot be made up. An absence from any performance or rehearsal will directly affect a student's grade. Please contact the director if there is an extreme circumstance that needs to be considered. It is also important to know that if you are absent from school due to illness, Pasco County guidelines state that you may NOT participate in any after school activity.

All Ensembles

-Students receive 25 points per week (5 per day) for class participation. Points may be deducted for the following reasons:

- Forgetting an instrument or instrument supplies at home
- Not having all necessary materials for class (music, pencil, etc.)
- Failure to participate in class activities
- Poor attitude during class time
- Behavior that does not adhere to the classroom rules and policies

-Students will perform a playing test each week for a grade. Each playing test is performed individually in front of the class and will be typically worth 50 points (or more). These tests are graded based on the following:

- Posture/Tapping your Foot
- Tone Quality/Pitch
- Rhythm/Tempo
- Note Accuracy
- Appropriate Articulations

Advanced Band

-Students in Advanced band will have additional after school rehearsals and performances throughout the year. Students in both of these classes perform in pep rallies and football games. These performances are MANDATORY. If your child has a prior engagement or family/medical emergency, please notify the director ASAP so that your child's grade is not affected.

All students are required to bring their instrument, music, and a pencil to class every day. NO EXCEPTIONS! All students enrolled in band are expected to participate and perform in all the required activities of their class. Band is a "co-curricular" course which means attendance at any required activity before, during, or after school is part of a student's grade.

Uniform/Materials Needed (by Ensemble)

Beginning Band (Woodwinds and Brass) Materials Needed

- Pencil (needed EVERY DAY for class)
- Instrument and necessary supplies (supplies are specific to each instrument such as reeds, valve oil, etc.)
- Book: Measures of Success Book ONE (note: each book is instrument specific)

Beginning Band (Percussion) Materials Needed

- Pencil (needed EVERY DAY for class)
- Percussion Kit (practice pad, sticks & mallets). YOU WILL NEED TO BUY THESE!
- Book: Measures of Success Book ONE (note: you will need the PERCUSSION book)

Intermediate Band Materials Needed

- Pencil (needed EVERY DAY for class)
- Instrument and necessary supplies (supplies are specific to each instrument such as reeds, valve oil, etc.)
- Book: Measures of Success Book TWO (note: each book is instrument specific)

Advanced Band Materials Needed

- Pencil (needed EVERY DAY for class)
- Instrument and necessary supplies (supplies are specific to each instrument such as reeds, valve oil, etc.)
- Music lyre and flip folder (can be purchased at local music stores or online. The lyre is instrument specific!)
- Scale sheets

Intermediate & Advanced Percussion Materials Needed

- Pencil (needed EVERY DAY for class)
- Practice pad (many are available at www.steveweissmusic.com. Recommended: Evans HQ 12" RealFeel)
- Sticks & mallets (REQUIRED: Liberty One Basic Stick Pack available at www.steveweissmusic.com)
- Book: Alfred's Drum Method BOOK ONE by Feldstein/Black

ALL BAND STUDENTS

- To prepare for success, please remember to use a tuner and metronome. If you have access to a smart phone or tablet, please download the following apps to assist in your at-home practice:
 - Tuner: Bandmates Chromatic Tuner
 - Metronome: MetroTimer

Formal Concert Attire (by Ensemble)

Beginning & Intermediate Band (all concert attire must adhere to the school dress code policy)

- Boys: white button-down dress shirt, black dress pants/slacks, and black dress shoes (wearing a tie is optional).
- Girls: school appropriate white or black dress. A black or white blouse with black dress pants/slacks with black shoes is also acceptable.

Advanced Band (all concert attire must adhere to the school dress code policy)

- Band polo shirt (must be purchased for \$15.00 if you do not already own one)
- black pants (no black jeans will be permitted at performances)
- Comfortable closed toed black shoes (sneakers/tennis shoes)

Supplies Needed (by Instrument)

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ASK FOR THESE SPECIFIC ITEMS WHEN SHOPPING AT LOCAL MUSIC STORES! This recommended equipment will set your child up for early success. If you cannot find these specific items at local stores, please search on www.wwbw.com, as they carry many of these necessary supplies.

FLUTE: cleaning rod and swab, cork grease

OBOE/BASSOON: cleaning swab, cork grease, at least 2 reeds at all times

Recommended Oboe Reeds: <http://www.oboe.net>

Recommended Bassoon Reeds: <http://www.clarkreeds.com>

CLARINET: cleaning swab, mouthpiece brush, cork grease, at least 2 reeds at all times. **Please purchase**

Vandoren #3 or #3 $\frac{1}{2}$ strength reeds (BLUE BOX).

Recommended Beginner Mouthpiece: Clark Fobes Debut (with Rovner ligature)

Recommended Advanced Mouthpiece: Vandoren M13 (with Rovner ligature)

SAXOPHONE: cleaning swab, mouthpiece brush, cork grease, at least 2 reeds at all times. **Please purchase**

Vandoren #3 or #3 $\frac{1}{2}$ strength reeds (BLUE BOX).

Alto Sax Recommended Mouthpiece: Selmer S-80 C** (with Rovner Ligature)

Tenor Sax Recommended Mouthpiece: Selmer S-80 D (with Rovner Ligature)

Bari Sax Recommended Mouthpiece: Selmer S-80 D (with Rovner Ligature)

TRUMPET: snake, mouthpiece brush, valve brush, valve oil

Beginning Trumpet Recommended Mouthpiece: Bach 5C or 7C

Intermediate/Advanced Trumpet Recommended Mouthpiece: Bach 3C

FRENCH HORN: snake, mouthpiece brush, rotor oil

French Horn Recommended Mouthpiece: Holton MDC

TROMBONE: snake, mouthpiece brush, slide oil or cream

Trombone Recommended Mouthpieces: Bach 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ AL or Yamaha 48

EUPHONIUM: snake, mouthpiece brush, valve brush, valve oil

Euphonium Recommended Mouthpieces: Bach 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ AL or Yamaha 48

TUBA: snake, mouthpiece brush, valve brush, valve oil

Tuba Recommended Mouthpiece: Conn Helleberg

PERCUSSION: PERCUSSION: Vic Firth SD1 snare sticks, one pair of yarn mallets, one pair of hard rubber mallets

*A bell kit is heavily recommended if you would like to have more at-home practice time on mallets.

PLEASE SEE REQUIREMENTS ON PREVIOUS PAGE FOR INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED PERCUSSION

REQUIREMENTS. THE PRACTICE PAD AND STICK/MALLET PACK ARE RECOMMENDED FOR ALL PERCUSSION STUDENTS!

Concert Etiquette

-In order for the students to have their best performance opportunity, a few guidelines should be observed. Electronic devices should be turned off or silenced. If you must use an electronic device, please leave the performance area.

-Talking is acceptable between bands. Talking during a performance is distracting and rude not only to the performers but also to the surrounding audience members. If you must talk, please leave the performance area.

-Leaving or changing seats in the middle of a song should only be done in an emergency. If you leave the performance area, please wait until the band has finished a song to move as moving is distracting to the performers and other audience members. If you re-enter the performance area, do not enter while the band is in the middle of a song.

-Please do not use flash photography while students are in the middle of a song as the flash may temporarily blind them so they would not be able to read the music. Please remember that you are a guest and if you are doing something that is distracting, school personnel or designated chaperones may ask you to leave the performance area.

Local/Area Music Stores

Music Showcase and Music & Arts (both located in Brandon) visit our band room on a regular basis and provides all necessary materials your child will need to be successful in band. In addition to Music Showcase and Music & Arts, there are many local music stores that may be able to help. For further information about specific stores, please contact your band director.

The following questions may be helpful when looking for a music store:

1. How long have you been in business?
2. Do you carry several different brands and models?
3. Do you rent and sell both new and used instruments?
4. Are you a satellite store for a larger store?
5. What is your repair policy and do you offer a loaner instrument?
6. Do you do ALL repair at this facility or do you send instruments out? THIS IS AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.
7. Do you offer different rental prices for new and used instruments?
8. Will you be sending a representative regularly to JLMS?
9. In what country are the instruments you rent or sell manufactured?
10. Will you apply the paid rental toward a purchase if I choose to buy at a later date?

Online/Additional Resources

-JLMS Bands (<http://www.jlmsband.com/>) is our personal band website. The resources tab in the main menu is full of helpful information for you and your child. PLEASE REVIEW THESE HELPFUL RESOURCES. Our calendar is also located there as well.

-Woodwind Brasswind (<http://www.wwbw.com/>) is a large online store for everything music. Instruments, supplies, reeds, and many other items can be purchased here.

-J.W. Pepper (<http://www.jwpepper.com>) is a great place to purchase music. For students participating in Solo & Ensemble, this site will have a variety of choices

-Steve Weiss Music (<http://www.steveweissmusic.com/>) is an online store dedicated to all things percussion.

-Online Metronome (<http://www.metronomeonline.com/>) is a FREE metronome that can be accessed and used online. This is a very useful tool for at home practice time.

-Music Theory (<http://www.musictheory.net/>) is a very useful resource for students at all levels.

We encourage all parents to get involved in their child's musical exploration. Many of you probably played an instrument while you were in school. If so, you know that the time spent in band was one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. It can be equally rewarding for your child. All it takes is commitment and a love for music. Please take a moment to cut out, fill out and sign the following portion and return it to the band director as soon as possible. Please keep the handbook as a reference. Thank you for all that you do!

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JLMS BAND HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I have read and understand the information included in the JLMS Band Handbook.

Student Name: _____

Class Period: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____