

NORTHWEST RANKIN
MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

**BAND
HANDBOOK**

2011-2012

DIRECTORS:

JERRY PICKERING
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BEN BURGE

From the Director...

The band program at Northwest Rankin Middle School is poised to have an active and exciting school year. Together as teachers, parents, and students we will make the band the best it has ever been.

We want our band to represent the BEST aspects of our school and community. In order for us to be our best we all have to work together to perform at the highest level musically and personally. In the following pages you will find information and procedures that will help ensure our success.

Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

PHONE NUMBERS

Middle School Front Office 601-992-1329

High School Band Hall 601-992-9125

EMAIL

Jerry Pickering

jerry.pickering@rcsd.ms

Lyndsey Bobo

lyndsey.bobo@rcsd.ms

Matt McDonald

matt.mcdonald@rcsd.ms

Ben Burge

ben.burge@rcsd.ms

Class Behavior Expectations & Rules

1. Follow instructions the first time they are given.
2. Horseplay is not acceptable.
3. Treat everyone with courtesy and respect.
4. Be on time with all your materials at your seat when the tardy bell rings.
5. Students are required to take their instrument home every day.
6. No food, gum, candy, or drinks in the band hall
7. Student's name is to be written on their instrument case.
8. Book bags, non-band books, and non-band assignments are not allowed at the student's seat.
9. **Only** band students are allowed in the band hall.

NWR Band Member Expectations

1. Take pride in your band – we will be successful through working together.
2. Take responsibility for your actions.
3. Think before you act.

4. Do not wait to be told the obvious.
5. Make results, not excuses.
6. Bring your best effort and a great attitude to class each day.
7. Practice daily to improve – becoming good is a process

Attendance

Attendance will be taken each day and entered into Power School.

TARDIES

Every student is expected to be in their seat when the tardy bell rings with all materials that are required for participation in class. Each unexcused tardy over 2 will result in After-School Detention. Each unexcused tardy over 4 will result in ISS. Each tardy over 5 will result in suspension.

PERFORMANCES

Performances are required. Band is a PERFORMANCE based class. If everyone does not participate it is not an accurate representation of all of our hard work during rehearsals.

Unexcused absences will result in a grade of ZERO for a major test. A students' grade can be changed at the director's choosing by completing a written assignment for partial credit.

If you, as a parent, have a scheduling conflict because of work, etc. please let us know. We are usually able to arrange transportation by another NWR band parent for your child to be able to attend.

All bands students are expected to be present for all portions of a Northwest Rankin Band concert. It is our goal to not only produce well -rounded performers, but also to develop our students' active listening skills and recital etiquette. Significant efforts are made to program our performance to be no longer than an hour.

Attire:

Football Games:

Khaki pants or shorts, band t-shirt, and tennis shoes.

Concerts:

Girls: black pants, black skirt, or black dress, white shirt, and black dress shoes.

Boys: black dress pants, white long sleeve dress shirt, tie, black belt, black crew socks, and black dress shoes.

Excused absences:

- 1. Personal illness (requires a doctors excuse)
- 2. Hospitalization or death in your immediate family
- 3. Plans made prior to August 8, 2011 (must be cleared by a director...let us know in advance)

Unexcused absences:

- 1. Regular weekly meetings or practices (scouts, sports practice, piano lessons, etc.)
- 2. Oversleeping, forgetting, or any general mismanagement of time.

The key to understanding each other in these instances is: COMMUNICATION. If you let us know there is a legitimate problem we will make every effort to help you find a solution.

Required performances for 6th Grade

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
December 1, 2011	Holiday Concert	NWRHS Performing Arts Building	6:30
April 24, 2012	Spring Concert	NWRHS Performing Arts Building	6:30

Required performances for 7th & 8th Grade

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
September 20, 2011	NWR v. Brandon	NWRHS Stadium	4:30
September 27, 2011	NWR v. Terry	NWRHS Stadium	4:30
October 4, 2011	NWR v. Madison	NWRHS Stadium	4:30
October 18, 2011	NWR v. Vicksburg	NWRHS Stadium	4:30
December 2, 2011	Holiday Concert	NWRHS Performing Arts Building	6:30
March (TBA)	Central MS Festival	Ridgeland HS Auditorium	TBA
April 26, 2012	Spring Concert	NWRHS Performing Arts Building	6:30

Fees

Every band student is required to pay \$80 per year to participate in band. Your fees include the following:

- Band T-Shirt (parent T-shirts may be purchased at Open House)
- SmartMusic subscription
- New music 20 – 25 pieces per year (one classroom set of music costs around \$50, a set of method books can cost up to \$800)
- Equipment purchases and maintenance (music stands, chairs, classroom equipment, etc.)

All fees are due by September 1, 2011

The band covers many costs on behalf of students in advance. There can be no refunds on the basis of academic ineligibility or change of schedule. Please plan well in advance.

Parents of any student with financial difficulty must contact a band director before the fees are due. You may contact Mr. Pickering at: jerry.pickering@rcsd.ms

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Any student who plays a school owned instrument must:

1. Purchase a mouthpiece and any accessories for the mouthpiece.
2. Pay a \$50 maintenance fee to keep the instruments in playing condition (one trip to the repair shop costs \$100-200).
3. Sign a contract agreeing to pay full repair costs of an instrument that is damaged due to abuse, neglect, or willful destruction.

FUNDRAISERS

Fundraising is a necessary part of the band program at Northwest Rankin. Funds collected help to purchase necessary equipment and materials for all of the students in the program to succeed.

The band plans one major fundraiser for each semester. We need all students to participate in order to effectively operate for the year. Each student is asked to sell 10 items in the fall *Pizza and Cookie Dough Sale*. Profits generated from this sale average around \$100 per participant. If you do not wish for your child to participate in fundraising activities a donation of \$100 is suggested to account for a fair share of profits received.

Grades

DAILY GRADES

Students will receive a grade each day for their participation in class. In order to participate they will need all of their materials. The following points will be deducted for not having the proper materials:

Instrument/Mouthpiece/Sticks/Mallets	(50-100)
Notebook	(25)
Method Book	(25)
Handouts/Worksheets	(15)
Pencil	(10)

The director may assign a reading and writing assignment that is due by the next day your class meets for more credit. Students may earn up to half the points lost by completing the assignment.

Instruments sent to the shop for repairs require the student present the claim check from the store to prevent a deduction from their daily grade. BEFORE sending an instrument to the shop check with a director to see if the problem can be repaired at school.

TESTS

Students will be issued playing tests in class and through SmartMusic at least once every two weeks (usually on Fridays when their class meets). The material will consist of scales, rudiments, exercises, and passages from sheet music.

CHAIR TESTS

Students will have periodic chair tests to determine their chair order in the section. Chair-tests are meant to instill a sense of healthy competition among members of each section of the band. Chair tests will be utilized in the 7th and 8th grade to determine who plays 1st or 2nd parts on music.

PERFORMANCE GRADES

Students will earn a grade of 100 for a performance by arriving on time, wearing the correct attire, bringing all performance materials, and remaining until the concert is over. Arriving late or departing early will result in a 25-point deduction from their performance test grade. Students will receive a 'zero' for an unexcused absence from a performance.

Required Materials

These materials will be checked daily. Students that do not have all of their materials will receive a lower daily grade in accordance with our band grading policy.

For all classes:

- Instrument/Accessories (mouthpiece, sticks, ligature, reed, etc.).
- Music that is handed out in class.
- Method Book
- Pencil

REQUIRED FOR INDIVIDUAL INSTRUMENTS

Flute:

- Cleaning rod and cloth

Oboe & Bassoon:

- 2 reeds (in good playing condition)
- Cork grease
- Instrument swab

Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Saxophone:

- 3 reeds (in good playing condition)
- Cork grease
- Swab

Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba:

- Valve or slide (trombone) oil
- Mouthpiece brush
- Slide grease

Percussion

- Vic Firth SD-1 sticks
- Plastic bell mallets
- Medium hard marimba mallets
- General timpani mallets
- Stick bag

All of these items are included in the Pro-Mark Scholastic Pro-Pack (\$69.99) item #463952 on the Woodwind & Brasswind web site www.wwbw.com

School Owned Instrument Guidelines

This section applies to ALL students in the band program

EXPENSES

The school owned instruments for a band program are VERY expensive to purchase and maintain. Cost for school owned instruments are incredibly expensive. It is easily estimated that to outfit and replace all of the equipment that the band needs to succeed would be in well in excess of \$100,000.

The following are school-owned with a **conservative** estimate of replacement cost:

Oboe (\$1,650)

Bassoon (\$5,000+)

Bass Clarinet (\$1,800)

Tenor Saxophone (\$1,800)

Baritone Saxophone (\$3,000)

French Horn (\$2,500)

Baritone (\$2,250)

Tuba (\$4,000)

Concert Bass Drum (\$1,000)

Timpani (\$2,500 each)

Marimba (\$8,000)

Accessory Percussion (\$200-800 - toms, bongos, congas, djembes, drum-set, etc.)

Mallets and Sticks (\$10-\$45 – we typically spend \$800-\$1,000 per year on these items)

School owned equipment is constantly being upgraded and repaired as funds become available. Therefore, it is extremely important that students and parents understand the necessity of taking care of the equipment that we have.

Any student that does not PLAY on school owned equipment should leave it alone unless instructed by a band director.

If a student is found to have damaged, neglected, or destroyed a school owned instrument they will be held financially responsible for its repair or replacement.

NWR Band 'Virtuoso Vision' Points

Students are encouraged to practice on their instruments daily to improve their musical skills. Students will have the opportunity to earn points to receive a tangible reward for their efforts at the end of each nine-week period. *Virtuoso Vision Points* will be awarded for specified goals that are assigned throughout the nine weeks. The students participating in the program will earn a pizza party during their lunch period for meeting the requirements set up by their teacher. Students that earn the required number of points at the end of the year will receive a reward based on their cumulative efforts.

Each nine-week grading period there will be an opportunity to earn 20 *Virtuoso Vision* points. To participate in the pizza party students will earn a minimum of 10 points. Throughout the year points will accumulate for a larger reward at the end of the year.

Bronze Virtuoso Vision

10 points received in a 9 weeks – Students will be eligible to participate in the Virtuoso Pizza Party at the end of the 9 weeks.

Students receiving the 'Bronze Virtuoso Vision' level all 4 nine weeks will receive special recognition at the final concert along with a metal and certificate.

Silver Virtuoso Vision

14 points received in a 9 weeks – Students will be eligible to participate in the Virtuoso Vision Pizza Party at the end of the 9 weeks.

Students receiving the 'Silver Virtuoso Vision' level in at least 3 nine weeks (silver) and 1 nine week period (bronze) will receive special recognition at the final concert, a metal, a certificate, and a special 'Silver Virtuoso Mystery Afternoon' at the end of the year.

Gold Virtuoso Vision

18 points received in a 9 weeks – Students will be eligible to participate in the Virtuoso Pizza Party at the end of the 9 weeks.

Students receiving the 'Gold Virtuoso Vision' level in at least 3 nine weeks (gold) and 1 nine weeks (bronze or silver) will receive special recognition at the final concert, a metal, a certificate, and a special 'Gold Virtuoso Mystery Day' at the end of the year.