

Band Handbook



CMS – “Creating Musical Success”

Chowan Middle School

2013-2014

MICHAEL SELF, DIRECTOR

Hello!

Welcome to the band program at Chowan Middle School. At Chowan Middle we promote excellence in musicianship through our band program. We aim to provide each student with what is necessary to become successful musicians as well as well-rounded individuals. Our band program strives for the highest levels of achievement in musicality. This handbook will be a guide for your year in the Chowan Middle School band program. In it you will find: band expectations, rules and consequences, required materials, performance information, a calendar with important dates, the grading policy, information about instrument security, and the rubric that will be used to grade ensemble contribution. If you have any questions about the information in this handbook, or any questions in general, feel free to contact me through email or my school phone number found below. I look forward to having a great year with each one of you here at Chowan Middle. Go Bulldogs!

Sincerely,

Mike Self

Mr. Michael Self, Director of Bands

Chowan Middle School

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Band Expectations and Rules

These are the rules that I expect you to follow. Breaking the rules will result in a reduction of your daily participation grade as well as the consequences listed in this handbook.

Be on time – Show up to class and be **INSIDE** the band room when class begins.

Be Prepared – Bring all of your required materials to class each day and have what you need **at your seat** when class starts.

Respect others – including your peers, the teacher, and any guests that may be in the room. KHFAAOOTY – Keep hands, feet, and all other objects to yourself.

Respect the equipment in the room – including other student's instruments, your own instrument, school owned instruments, stands, chairs, and the band room itself.

Give 100% - All the time!

All other school rules must be followed whenever in the band room or ANYTIME you are with the band!

Consequences

The following are the consequences for breaking the rules listed in this handbook. Depending upon the severity of the action the consequences may be altered. (I.E. disrupting class for the first time will be a warning, but fighting or stealing will result in an immediate office referral)

1st offence – Verbal warning

2nd offence – Student/teacher conference

3rd offence – Action plan and a call home

4th offence – Office referral

Possible rewards for positive behavior:

- Stickers – “Free fifteen Friday” – Free seating day – Positive call home – Student of the week

Materials

You will need the following items in class each day in order to participate in class and be successful. Not having the required materials in class will result in a lowering of your daily participation grade.

Instrument – You must have an instrument in good playing condition. If for some reason your instrument needs to be repaired, LET MR. SELF KNOW! He may be able to fix it for you, and if he cannot he will recommend a place for you to get it fixed. **Please do not attempt to repair your instrument yourself.**

Music Binder – Please see the Music Binder section for details.

Method Book – You will need to bring your designated method book to class each day. You will need one of the following method books:

- 6th Grade – *Measures of Success*, Book 1 by Deborah and Robert Sheldon, Brian Balmages and Tim Loest
- 7th Grade – *Essential Elements 2000*, Book 2 by Tim Lautzenheiser, John Higgins, Charles Menghini, Paul Lavender, Tom Rhoades & Don Bierschenk **AND** *Warm-Ups and Beyond*
- 8th Grade – *Superior Bands in Sixteen Weeks*, by Quincy Hillard **AND** *Warm-Ups and Beyond*

Pencil – In band we will frequently use pencil to mark in our music. **Students should not use pen.**

CMS Band Polo – These will be sold for \$15 at the beginning of the school year and should be paid for by September 7th. An order form is on the handbook contract.

Instrument Specific materials

- If you play an instrument that uses **reeds** you will need to keep at least **FOUR** good reeds* on hand as well as cork grease and a swab.
 - Clarinets and Alto Saxophone players will be provided a reed guard that should be used.
 - Woodwind students should provide their own reeds. Mr. Self will have a limited supply on hand to provide in the event that one is needed. Only one reed will be issued during the school year to each student.
- If you play a brass instrument you should always have a bottle of **valve oil**; trombone players should have **slide cream** and a **spray bottle**.
- Every student should keep a **soft cloth** in their case to wipe their instrument after each use.
- ALL instruments should have a **nametag** with the student's name, address and phone number clearly printed on it.

Your Music Binder

- You will be required to keep a binder with all of the handouts and music that you have received and bring it to class each day.
- Your binder should be organized and have all of the required materials in it.
- There will be at least one announced notebook checks and at least one unannounced check each grading period. For announced notebook checks you will be given a list of the materials you will be graded on at least one week before the check.
- **Some reminders:**
 - Your notebook should be a 3-ring binder.
 - You will need to have everything in sheet protectors.
 - You will need extra blank paper in your binder for use in rehearsals.

* I STRONGLY encourage students to use
Michel Lurie Reeds.

Performance Calendar

*An important part of being in band is performing on your instrument. All of our performances are **REQUIRED**. Not attending a performance will result in a two letter grade reduction of your final grade. **If you have a conflict with one of the dates listed let Mr. Self know at the time your handbook form is turned in.***

October

5th – 38th Annual Peanut Festival Battle of the Bands

11th – 8th grade Band night – The 8th grade band will perform with the JAHHS Band at their home football game at John A. Holmes High School be to the JAH bandroom at 5pm.

December

17th – 7:00pm Winter Music Concert – All students (6-8) will perform on a Winter Concert with the CMS All-Star Ensemble at the Northern Chowan Community Center. Students need to arrive at 6:30pm.

January

11th – Eastern All-District Band Auditions (For selected students) – E.B. Aycock Middle School, Greenville, NC

18th – Eastern All-District Jazz Band Auditions (For selected students) – South Central HS, Winterville, NC

February

27th – 7:00pm Pre-MPA Concert with JAHHS, location TBA

March

5th – 7th – Eastern District Concert Band Festival – Northside HS – Jacksonville, NC. We will attend **only one** of these days. More information will be provided closer to the date.

Performances continued

April

4th and 5th – Albemarle Band Clinic (Selected Students) – ECSU Elizabeth City, NC

May

8th – 7:00pm, Spring Concert – Northern Chowan Community Center. Students need to arrive at 6:30pm.

10th – Solo and Ensemble Festival (Selected Students) – East Carolina University School of Music, Greenville, NC

June

6th – Continuation Ceremony – the 7th grade band along with selected 6th grade students will play the Processional March and Star Spangled Banner. The 8th Grade band will be performing Special Music during the ceremony.

*For all performances the students are expected to arrive 30 minutes before the program begins. Additionally, students are **required** to be present during the entire performance, even if their portion of the program is over.*

Concert Dress

CMS Band Polo with khaki pants or skirt. (**must be below the knees when seated**). NO SHORTS.

These dress guidelines must be followed, failure to adhere to these guidelines may prevent you from performing and a grade reduction.

Grading Policy

Students will be graded on their individual musicianship as well as their contribution to the ensemble

Individual Musicianship – 50%

- Playing Tests
- Written Assignments
- Projects
- Binder Checks

Ensemble Contribution – 50%

- Posture
- Rehearsal Readiness
- Effort
- Courtesy and outward behavior
- Learning Readiness and inward behavior

See the Ensemble Contribution rubric for more details

Missing a Scheduled Performance will result in an automatic 25% reduction of your potential final Grade.

Probationary Membership

If a student earns below a “C” average any grading period they will be placed on probationary membership for two grading periods. If the student fails to maintain at least a “C” average for the period of probation they will be required to change their schedule for another exploratory rotation.

There are two required student, parent conferences during the probationary period. The first conference will be held at the beginning of probation to explain the actions necessary to get off of probationary status and develop a plan. The second conference will be held at the end of probation.

If your child is placed on probation you will be notified in writing and conferences will be scheduled by the director.

CMS Band Ensemble Contribution Rubric

<u>Total Score:</u>	Unsatisfactory 0 – 6 points	Needs Improvement 7 – 8 points	Meets Expectations 9 – 10 points	Exceeds Expectations 11 points
Posture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarely exhibits proper posture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent posture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently exhibits proper posture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper posture is always evident
Rehearsal Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarely has materials • Rarely on time or ready • Chews gum daily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes has materials • Sometimes late or not ready • Chews gum in class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually has all materials • Usually on time & ready • Never chews gum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has all materials needed • Always on time & ready • Never chews gum
Rehearsal Effort & Response to Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inattentive to the director and ensemble • Rarely follows instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent attention to director • Sometimes ready • Doesn't always begin & end with group. • Sometimes follows instruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually attentive • Usually ready on time • Usually starts & stops as directed • Usually follows instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always attentive to director • Always ready to perform • Always starts & stops as directed • Always follows instructions
Courtesy & Outward Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally talks and disturbs those around them • Often makes derogatory remarks about other musicians • Discourteous or rude to director or other students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often talks to neighbor about non-subject things • Sometimes makes negative or inappropriate remarks to or about others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarely talks to neighbors about non-subject things • Ordinarily says positive things to and about others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No inappropriate talking • Treats other musicians with respect • Says positive things to and about others.
Learning Readiness & Inward Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarely has a positive attitude • Is not willing to take risks and try new things • Rarely performs all music to the best of ability regardless of likes or dislikes • Rarely listens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes has a positive attitude • Sometimes willing to take risks and try new things • Sometimes performs all music to the best of ability regardless of likes or dislikes • Sometimes listens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly has a positive attitude • Usually willing to take risks and try new things • Usually performs all music to the best of ability regardless of likes or dislikes • Usually listens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always has a positive attitude • Always willing to take risks and try new things • Always performs all music to the best of ability, regardless of likes or dislikes • Always listens

Retention Policy

Being in band is an important commitment. Students that are registered for band will not be allowed to remove band from their schedule except at the following times:

- 6th Grade – At the end of any 9 week grading period.
- 7th Grade – At the end of the 2nd 9 week grading period.
- 8th Grade – Students in the 8th grade will not be allowed to remove band from their schedule during the school year.

School-Owned Instruments

If your child is assigned a school-owned instrument he/she will be required to fill out an instrument use contract and before taking the instrument out of the bandroom.

Security

The school district does not assume responsibility for instruments lost, stolen, or broken while on school property. It is the students' responsibility to keep their instrument safe. ***Be sure your child's instrument has a nametag*** that includes their name, address and phone number. I strongly suggest that all parents insure their child's instrument.

Guidelines for Success (in life, not just band!)

- Be Nice.
- Listen to your teachers. We are here to help you!
- Treat others the way you would like to be treated.
- Always give your best effort. Don't give up easily.
- Get organized. It will make your life much easier.
- Don't just be on time, Be Early!
- Success has a lot to do with TEAMWORK. Be a good team member.
- Hard Work is a key element in being Successful.
- A short pencil is ALWAYS better than a long memory.