

JMT BAND HANDBOOK 2021-2022



“Preparing students for lifelong success through comprehensive academics, community partnerships, and character education.”

Mrs. Ashley Taylor, Director of Bands
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856-468-0818 ext. 4131

Dear Parents & Students,

Welcome back to school! This is your band handbook. Please read it very carefully, then sign and return the last page to Mrs. Taylor.

Band is fun *and* it demands responsibility on the part of the members. Because band is a performing arts class, success in the class is based primarily on participation. It is important that all band members understand and adhere to the requirements listed in this handbook to succeed not only as individuals, but as a group.

I hope that your child LOVES band this year, and that the music we make positively impacts your family. Please feel free to contact me for any reason by phone or email.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ashley Taylor
Director of Bands

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"How expensive would it be to just skip practice and get right to perfect?"

About Our Program

Currently, students at J. Mason Tomlin can choose between the following instruments:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Alto Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Percussion
- Oboe*
- Horn*
- Low Reeds*

*We also offer "specialty" instruments to our sixth graders.

A band is very much like a sports team: we need to have a balanced roster in order to perform well. Not everyone can play the same position, so we must limit the number of instruments in each section to help the band sound its best.

Rehearsal Schedule

Students enrolled in the band program at JMT are provided with one 40-minute small group lesson during the school day as well as a full ensemble band rehearsal once a week after school. Please see page 8 for a full list of rehearsals and concert dates.

Class Materials Required Daily

- Instrument in good working order
- Instrument case with your name on it
- All music, exercises, and books
- Reeds/mouthpiece/sticks/valve oil (depending on instrument)
- Pencils
- Folder (provided)

Students are required to own the following books which are available from online retailers such as Amazon, or at the local music stores listed below:

- Year 1 - New Players Band:
Essential Elements, book 1
- Optional:
Essential Elements, book 1 & 2

Local Music Stores:

- Coles Music
(856) 848-2122
471 Main St, Sewell, NJ 08080
M-F 9am - 6pm • SAT 9am - 1pm • SUN Closed
- Old Towne Music
(856) 853-1580
Southwood Shopping Center

Syllabus

Grading

Band grades consist of participation in class, rehearsals and concerts, but being a great musician is so much more than being able to play the music! To help all our students excel, grades will include practice logs, online proficiency assessments, supplies checks, and attitude. Students will be provided the opportunity to retake any playing assessments before the end of the marking period.

Practicing

Students are required to practice at least 30 minutes a week and log it in their records *along with a flipgrid submission*. Students will set goals and take notes during lessons and band so they know what to work on at home.

Musical Proficiency

Our young musicians are only beginning their studies, so we need to ensure that each student has a firm grasp of the fundamentals we teach here at JMT. Proficiency Assessments are an easy and fun way to make sure everyone is getting the attention they need!

Essential Questions include:

- Am I relaxed, sitting up straight, breathing properly and tapping my foot?
- Am I making a sound that is characteristic of my instrument? (translation: do I sound like a clarinet *should* sound?)
- Can I play the correct notes at the correct time?

Supplies

- Instrument
- Book
- 3 Ring Binder (Practice Log, Handbook, Exercises, Instrument Care Sheet)
- Any accessories (pencils, reeds, sticks, mouthpieces, etc.)

Class Rules

- Listen to directions
- Focus on the music
- Respect each other and our work

Consequences

1. Warning
2. Instrument Time Out / Note home
3. Phone call home / Discipline referral / Grade Reduction
4. Parent conference / Discipline Referral / Grade Reduction



How Do I Practice?

All students are different. Some may only need to practice a musical passage a few times to master it, while others must play it 100 times. That's okay! However, *all* students must practice at home on a regular basis to improve. Don't forget to check Google Classroom every week to see assignments, videos and also to ask for help!

An Average Practice Routine: 15 minutes, 3 times a week

1. EASY Warm up - Relax, breathe, and make a beautiful sound
2. Technique - work on articulation, counting, slurs, proper breathing, posture...
3. Scales - fix those fingers and make a consistent sound low to high
4. Band Music: Go over small spots in your music that give you trouble - SLOWLY
5. Something fun! That's the point, right? Play what you want or perform for an audience!

Parents, please be patient and encouraging with beginners while they work through the challenges of practicing and ensure that they play at home regularly.

Tip: Set a timer for 10 minutes and then ask your child to show you what he or she has been practicing - it may not be Mozart yet, but you'll be able to see how fast our musicians progress through the year!

More Opportunities to Play and Improve

Private Lessons

JMT Band students are highly encouraged to take private lessons with a professional musician after school. Lessons are not a part of the class grade but are an important part of a young musician's development. They provide the *one-on-one* attention necessary to attain such personal honors as Regional Honor Bands, All-State Band, and college scholarships. Sessions are usually 30 minutes long, at an average cost of \$15 to \$20 per lesson. A list of private teachers will be posted on our website and in the band room. Private teachers are also easily found with the help of the band stores which are listed above.

Honor Ensembles

Students selected for the Elementary Honors Ensemble show above average musicianship, exceptional organization and a willingness to take risks!

Summer Lessons

This program runs alongside the SEE program at M. Mason Tomlin.

Hobo Band

The Original Hobo Band is always seeking musicians to play in community events such as parades, concerts, dedications and strolls. All brass, woodwind and percussion players are welcome. Visit www.originalhoboband.org

Daily Checklist for Participation in Band

Please keep this checklist for your reference

- ✓ Instrument is in good working condition
If you believe that your instrument is broken, you must take it to Mrs. Taylor immediately. If the teacher cannot fix the instrument, you should take it to a repair shop as soon as possible. Say No to DIY!
- ✓ 3 ring binder with handbook, exercises, music and lesson book.
- ✓ A minimum of 3 working reeds in the case at all times.
**Only for oboists, clarinetists, bass clarinetists & all saxophonists. A broken reed is not acceptable for class. Maintaining good reeds is the responsibility of the student. Each student should have at least 3 working reeds stored in reed cases/holders.*
- ✓ *Percussionists are required to have stick bags with correct sticks or mallets inside. Label all bags with your name on a luggage tag.
- ✓ Rehearsal participation can only begin with the appropriate materials, but it continues with active listening, note taking, and full effort to play music as well as possible.
- ✓ Positive attitude is paramount to achievement in band.
To create a positive learning environment, everyone should demonstrate consistent effort to play well, respect to others and a show a good attitude.

Important Band Information

Mrs. Taylor Phone: 856-468-0818 ext. 4131

Email: ataylor@mantuaschools.com

Website: jmtbands.weebly.com

Google Classroom: _____ (See your child's folder for this code)

Write your band lesson day and time here:

