



Jenison Junior High Band
Handbook
2023-24

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Jenison Junior High Band 2023-24 Performance Schedule

Report time for students is 30 minutes prior to all performances!

If any of these dates change, you will be notified in writing and via email. Underlined events are required.

Homecoming Dinner and Performance-Required for 8th Grade Only!

Friday, September 15, 5:00 pm Dinner, Pre-Game/Half-time Performance. Dismissed after half-time

Optional MSBOA All-State Band Auditions-Extra Credit

Thursday, October 19 or Saturday, October 21, Zeeland Creekside MS

Fall Concert- Jenison Center for the Arts

Thursday, October 26, 8:15 pm Concert for 7th, 8th, and HS Marching Band

(There will be a separate concert that evening at 6:30 for 6th and HS Marching Band)

JH Holiday Band Concert- Jenison Center for the Arts

Friday, December 8, 6:30 pm Concert for the Jr. High Bands

6th, 8th, and Wind Symphony Winter Concert- Jenison Center for the Arts; Required for 8th Grade Only!

Tuesday, January 30, 7:30 pm Concert for the 6th and 8th Grade

Pre-Festival Concert- Jenison Center for the Arts

Thursday, February 22, 6:30 pm Concert for the Jr. High Bands

MSBOA District Festival- Jenison Center for the Arts (Takes place during the school day)

Tuesday, February 27, Performance for the Jr. High Bands

Optional District 10 Solo & Ensemble-Extra Credit for Students

Saturday, April 20, Location and time TBA

8th Grade Elementary Tour Concerts- Jenison Center for the Arts

Friday, April 26, During the School Day

Spring Awards Concert - Jenison Center for the Arts

Tuesday, May 14 8:00 pm Concert for 7th and 8th Grade Bands

(There will be a separate concert that evening at 6:30 for 6th Grade Band)

Memorial Day Parade-Required for 8th Grade Only!

Monday, May 27, 9:00 am Parade Performance

7th Grade Full Band 2023-24 School Year Rehearsals

As a result of our large 7th grade band class, it is necessary for us to split the band between two class periods; a woodwind/percussion class and a brass class. This "instrument family" approach to class is beneficial to the students so that at the younger level they can work on instrument specific pedagogy. This will require four after school rehearsals during the course of the school year. We have found that even with this limited rehearsal time together, students have a great experience performing as a full 7th grade band for each concert! Please have your child do all that they can to avoid missing one of the after school rehearsals. We have tried to avoid as many athletic events as possible, but if you encounter any conflicts with an after school rehearsal, please have your child talk to me at least 2 weeks in advance so that we can find a solution. I appreciate all of your help and support to make this year great!

Fall Concert Rehearsals (Concert is on Thursday, 10/26)

Date	Time	
Tuesday, 10/17	2nd Hour Rehearsal	4th hr woodwind/perc students need to be excused from 2nd hr to attend rehearsal. They are able to go to their 2nd hr class during our 4th hr band class if needed.
Monday, 10/23	3:00-4:00 pm after school	

Christmas Concert Rehearsals (Concert is on Friday, 12/8)

Date	Time	
Thursday, 12/7	3:00-4:00 pm after school	
Friday, 12/8	4th Hour Rehearsal	2nd hr brass students need to be excused from 4th hr to attend rehearsal. They are able to go to their 4th hr teacher on this day during our 2nd hr band class if needed.

Pre-Festival Concert Rehearsals (Concert is on Thursday, 2/22)

Date	Time	
Thursday, 2/15	3:00-4:00 pm after school	
Tuesday, 2/20	4th Hour Rehearsal	2nd hr brass students need to be excused from 4th hr to attend rehearsal. They are able to go to their 4th hr teacher on this day during our 2nd hr band class if needed.
Thursday, 2/22	2nd Hour Rehearsal	4th hr woodwind/perc students need to be excused from 2nd hr to attend rehearsal. They are able to go to their 2nd hr class during our 4th hr band class if needed.

Festival Concert Rehearsal (Festival performance is during school day on Tuesday, 2/27)

Date	Time	
Monday, 2/26	3:00-4:00 pm after school	

Spring Concert Rehearsals (Concert is on Tuesday, 5/14)

Date	Time	
Friday, 5/10	4th Hour Rehearsal	2nd hr brass students need to be excused from 4th hr to attend rehearsal. They are able to go to their 4th hr teacher on this day during our 2nd hr band class if needed.
Tuesday, 5/14	2nd Hour Rehearsal	4th hr woodwind/perc students need to be excused from 2nd hr to attend rehearsal. They are able to go to their 2nd hr class during our 4th hr band class if needed.

*****GRADING POLICY*****

Grades are earned from the following four areas.

15% Practice Records and Assignments

A daily practice chart will be provided as a page in your assignment notebook. The first day of each week your assignment notebook will be collected at the beginning of the hour and recorded by a parent volunteer. Parents must sign each week's practice time. No time will be recorded unless a parental signature accompanies the practice time. Late practice time will be collected during the week as soon as the student returns if the student was absent on Monday. A weekly practice grade will be given from the chart on the right. In-class assignments, listening logs, and notes requiring parent signature will also be a part of the grade for this category. Although only 60 minutes are required to get an A, we highly encourage students to shoot for even more practice time at home if their schedule allows for it. Two hours a week is a great goal!

Practice Minutes	Percentage
60+	100%
60	98%
55	95%
50	92%
45	88%
40	85%
35	82%
30	78%
25	75%
20	72%
15	68%
10	65%
5	62%

30% Daily Participation

Good self-discipline is rewarded. Students are expected to be quiet while the director is working with other sections or individuals. Students should not disturb the class in any manner. Students are expected to come each day to class fully prepared with their instrument, music, folder, pencil, etc. Gum, candy, or food will not be allowed in the band room for the protection of the instruments, carpet, and classroom equipment. Students will lose points in this category for any of the reasons listed above.

30% Playing Assessments

Frequent, short playing assessments and larger playing tests offer the directors the opportunity to hear students individually and offer both written and verbal suggestions. Most of these tests must be completed through google classroom at home. We will provide a device to record their test through google classroom at school if you do not have access to a student or parent device at home.

25% Concert Attendance

Maximum credit can be earned in this section by attending the full length of the concert, arriving on time, being in full uniform, having all required equipment, and of course behaving with appropriate concert etiquette both on and off stage.

Extra Credit can be earned by performing in one of the extra credit performances, attending concerts that include live musicians (bring in program or parent note), or other specific opportunities that may be announced.

*****CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY*****

YOUR ATTENDANCE AT ALL PERFORMANCES IS REQUIRED, ALONG WITH 7TH GRADE FULL BAND AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSALS. WHEN YOU GET THIS HANDBOOK HOME, PLEASE PUT THE DATES ON YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR TO AVOID ALL POSSIBLE CONFLICTS. A concert or band festival is considered a major test in band. Plan ahead so that work, vacations, sports, and other activities do not conflict with our concerts. If a conflict cannot be resolved, and you must miss a concert, I must be notified by a parent in writing **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS** before the concert. This is imperative for the sake of our band and late letters will not be accepted. We will then work out an assignment that will allow you to make up the concert points.

As always, I understand that emergencies and illnesses will occur. In this case, a phone call or email from a parent within 24 hours of the concert will be needed in order for the student to be allowed to make up the points. If a student simply does not show up for a concert, they will lose all concert points and will not have an opportunity to make them up.

*******JUNIOR HIGH BAND EXPECTATIONS*******

Playing in band takes a highly organized and disciplined person. The students and teacher must strive to make our band room a safe and protected environment where students can come to learn without fear. Therefore we will follow the rules and consequences outlined below.

Rules

1. *Show respect to the teachers you have in band class.*
 - a. Listen carefully to what your teachers say.
 - b. Enter and leave class on time, following the correct procedures shown to you.
 - c. Follow directions given.
 - d. Communicate with your band directors!
2. *Show respect to others and their property.*
 - a. Listen carefully when they have a question to ask.
 - b. Strive to work as a team, not individual performers.
 - c. Do not touch or move others' property unless given permission.
3. *Show respect for school property*
 - a. No eating, drinking, or chewing gum in the band room. Students are allowed to have a sealed water bottle in class.
 - b. Use your instrument only! Do not play on any other instrument unless given permission.
 - c. Remember that your chair is for sitting, and your stand is for holding music. All other uses of chairs and stands are unacceptable!
4. *Show promptness and preparation*
 - a. Be in the classroom by the time the bell rings and in your seat 2 minutes after the bell rings.
 - b. When the director steps on the podium, it is time to start class.
 - c. Have everything you need for rehearsal at your seat. (Instrument, music, folder, **pencil**, oil, etc)
 - d. Bring your own music to mark. Do not rely on your stand partner.

*******INSTRUMENT LOCKERS*******

An individual instrument locker will be assigned to you to store your instrument at school. Locks are not necessary or required.

*******INSTRUMENTS*******

School-owned, as well as student-owned instruments, must be kept in good playing condition at all times. You are held responsible for your instrument, whether school or privately owned. Repairs should be made immediately when necessary. If you are having a problem with your instrument, please bring it to the attention of the director so it can be determined if any repairs are needed.

1. Do not leave anything unattended where it might be stolen or damaged.
2. Insure all privately owned instruments with your parents' homeowners or renters insurance policy.
3. Keep a record of the serial number, model, and make.
4. Be sure your name appears on the outside and the inside of your case. Ask your director for a name tag.
5. Keep your instrument in top condition. Regular oiling, cleaning and polishing is a must. Check with the director, however, before using any special cleaners. A damp cloth will work well in most cases. This includes school horns. Cleaning materials, oils and slide grease are the responsibility of the student using a school horn.

6. Students will be expected to replace any part of a school instrument that is broken by careless use or deliberately defaced.
7. Drummers are required to supply their own drum sticks and mallets. A letter will be sent home at the beginning of the year to purchase these required mallets.
8. Instruments must be put inside the case and case latched when not in use.
9. Do not store music or folders inside instrument cases. It can damage your instrument.

*******UNIFORMS*******

It is required that all band members obtain **black dress pants, black shoes, and black socks. Each student will be given information for purchasing a black polo shirt during the first week of school which must be purchased from us.** Please comply with these requirements because it will make us look uniform and it will reflect the pride that we have within our group. If there is a problem regarding the uniform, bring it to the attention of the director immediately. Please do not appear at a concert without the proper uniform. If you need any financial assistance for these purchases, please let us know so that we can help!

*******MUSIC*******

Music will be issued by the school. It is assumed that all students will respect and maintain the condition of the sheet music that they will receive for band. Folders are provided and are expected to be used. While at school, music folders must be stored in your locker or in your instrument locker in the band room. Music stuffed in instrument cases can damage an instrument and ruin sheet music. Music should be returned in the same condition that it was issued. **Lost music must be replaced by the student at the rate of \$1 per part and books at cost.** Mark your music with pencil only when putting in notes or fingerings.

*******DISTRICT 10 SOLO AND ENSEMBLE*******

This festival is optional for all students. The date for this event is April 20. Please ask your director for help in selecting a piece of music if you do not take private lessons. Students may select their accompanist or use the accompanist that we bring in for the majority of the students.

*******STUDENT CREDITS*******

Student credit is earned through participation in Band Booster sponsored fundraisers. Credit is then used by students to defray the cost of band camp, band trips, and any other items approved by the band director. If a student drops band or graduates with a balance in his or her account, he or she may transfer the balance to a sibling currently involved in a Jenison Music Program. Please see a director to obtain the necessary form to make this transaction possible. Credits will not be returned to the student in the form of cash, check, gift certificate, or any like vehicle. The sole purpose of student credit is to reduce the financial burden of camps, trips, and related musical items while a student is in band. Credits that are not transferred will be put toward the Jenison Band Boosters Benevolent Fund.

*******PRIVATE LESSONS*******

We have many students who take private lessons on their instruments both in the summer and during the school year. Private lessons can help you to play better and enjoy music more. Lessons are highly encouraged. Ask your band director for assistance in getting started. Persons who take private lessons usually develop into some of Jenison's most proficient performers and leaders.

*******PRIVATE LESSONS REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM*******

Your private lesson teacher will determine if your lesson is prepared. For every lesson prepared, the Band Boosters will deposit \$3.00 into your student credit account. In the handout rack of the band room, you can locate a sheet which is to be filled out by your private instructor. You may also download this sheet at www.jenisonjuniorhighbands.weebly.com This sheet must be turned in each semester to receive your rebate. The student is responsible for getting this sheet filled out and turned into a band director.

*******SCRIP PROGRAM*******

This is a great way to help support the Jenison Band Program and benefit yourself at the same time. By using SCRIP, you will be able to earn credits to defer the costs of any band activity that your child is involved with (pay for band camp, band equipment, trips, etc.). Everyone can participate, from Junior High to Band Alumni, relatives and friends. The more people who participate, the more can be earned for the students. For Junior High band members, this is an opportunity to get an account set up to offset future high school band costs. A flier to sign-up for SCRIP is available on the handout rack of the Junior High Band Room.

*******MUSIC CLASS POLICY*******

Music classes are a full year elective. When you sign up for a music class, you are committing to participation in the ensemble for the whole year.

The roster for each class is set up at the beginning of the year to be balanced and musically appropriate. Changes to the ensemble mid-year can hurt the success of the ensemble and should be avoided as much as possible. Your ensemble "team" depends on all of its members to be successful throughout the year.

It is very normal to feel less motivated and less excited about your music ensemble class (or about anything) at certain points during the year, particularly in the long winter months. The newness and excitement of the beginning of the year has worn off, some of the music gets pretty challenging, and the end of the year excitement and accomplishment hasn't been realized yet. Hang in there, it won't always feel like this! Any time you learn a new skill, there will always be a progression of ups and downs, easy and hard tasks, tricky and rewarding feelings. Your music class is designed to be a year-long experience, with some of the most fun and motivating activities happening towards the end of the year!

Any mid-year schedule change requests are required to go through the following process:

1. Student must have a face-to-face conversation with teacher stating the reasons for their request.
2. Student must have a face-to-face conversation with counselor stating the reasons their request.
3. Request will be discussed between teacher and counselor.
4. Request will be either approved or denied. **Most mid-year requests will be denied**, unless there are extenuating circumstances to consider.

Please remember that if you are experiencing a problem or frustrating situation, you should talk to your music teacher! Your teachers don't want you to be frustrated with your music class, and would love to help brainstorm possible solutions to help you! All you have to do is ask!