



# NCMS Band Student Handbook 2018-2019

Concert Band  
Seventh Grade Band  
Jazz Band

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## **Mission Statement**

North County Bands strives to create a family atmosphere, placing emphasis on service to others while pursuing excellence in music

## **Band Compass**

### **Items of Value**

1. Service
2. Respectable
3. Positive Attitude
4. Punctuality
5. Organization

### **Leadership Principles**

1. We will make our purpose to serve others, not ourselves.
2. We will operate in a character that is worthy of respect.
3. We will maintain an optimistic atmosphere.
4. We will always be on time (EARLY)!
5. We will keep our materials orderly.

### **Non-Negotiables**

1. Opposing the band's direction
2. Negativity
3. Lack of effort

## Course Descriptions

### NCMS Concert Band

**Duration:** Two Semesters

**Prerequisites:** Students must successfully complete sixth and seventh grade band. Students must be able to attend all outside of school rehearsals and performances. Director discretion may be used if a student would benefit more from repeating seventh grade band instead of playing in concert band. Students must meet all MSHSAA and NCSD eligibility requirements to perform. Seventh grade students are eligible for concert band by director invitation only based on concert band instrumentation needs.

**Description:** NCMS Concert Band is designed as a continuation and expansion of the study of band instrument performance. Emphasis is given to playing individually and in small/large ensembles. Students continue to learn an expanding vocabulary of notes, fingerings, rhythms, articulations, dynamics and increase knowledge of tone production, phrasing, blend and balance, and intonation. A Fall and Spring concert, as well as participation in area band festivals, honor bands, and competitions are outgrowths of the increased emphasis on ensemble playing. Attendance is required at all performances.

### Seventh Grade Band

**Duration:** Two Semester

**Prerequisites:** Students must successfully complete sixth grade band. Students must be able to attend the Fall and Spring concerts.

**Description:** Seventh Grade Band is designed as a continuation and expansion of the study of band instrument performance. Students continue to learn an expanding vocabulary of notes, fingerings, rhythms, articulations, dynamics and increase knowledge of tone production, phrasing, blend and balance, and intonation. A Fall and Spring concert are performed as an outgrowth of the increased emphasis on ensemble performance. Concert attendance is required as part of this course.

### NCMS Jazz Band

**Duration:** One Semester (Spring)

**Prerequisites:** Students must be a performing member of the NCMS Concert Band. Students are selected by director based on their success in other band classes and on band instrumentation needs. Seventh grade students are eligible for jazz band by director invitation only based on jazz band instrumentation needs.

**Description:** NCMS Jazz Band is designed as a continuation and expansion of the study of band instrument performance with an emphasis on jazz. Students will be introduced to different jazz styles, jazz history, and jazz improvisation. The band will perform at the NC Jazz Festival, the NC Jazz Spring concert, as well as other area band festivals. Attendance is required for all performances.

## Daily Materials Needed for Every Class

pencil

paper

music and other resources that are to be passed out in class

band folder

Standard of Excellence - Book 2 (7th grade)

Book 3 (Concert Band)

All percussion students are provided with a separate list of required materials.

## School Owned Instruments

School owned instruments, that are checked out to students or are being used by students at school, are to be taken care of by the student. Students should oil valves, grease slides and corks, and perform any other standard maintenance required for the instrument. Parents will be responsible for any damage caused from lack of maintenance or by negligence.

## Student Owned Instruments

Student owned instruments are expected to be functional and capable of being played in tune with a good tone. There are many online companies that offer cheap, low quality instruments that do not play in tune or do not play correct pitches at all. If you have doubts about the quality of an instrument you are about to purchase please contact an NC director. Students and bands cannot be successful with poor quality instruments.

## Reeds

Parents and students are responsible for supplying clarinet and saxophone students with reeds to play. We do keep a small supply of reeds at the middle school that can be purchased when students do not have any other options. We recommend Rico Royal 3's for all reed instruments at the middle school.

## Equipment

All woodwind and brass players are being asked to invest in a Snark SN-8 tuner for use during rehearsal before they reach high school. We have some available in the band room for purchase for \$15.00, or you can go to a local music store. Anyone using a school owned instrument is expected to purchase all accessories for regular use. (oils, grease, etc)

Concert band students will need a lyre and flip folder for our performance with the Raider Regiment and for pep assemblies. They will also use it in marching band in high school.

## Equipment Check

Equipment checks will be done periodically at the discretion of the director. Students will be graded for having all of their equipment and daily materials. During an equipment check students must be able to show us a pencil, paper, music, book, band folder, instrument, 2 working reeds, valve oil and slide grease.

Students will receive a verbal warning the first time they forget an instrument. After that they will be marked unexcused in SIS, and the school handbook policy will be followed. Students can also be given an alternative assignment during class time at the discretion of the director.

### Name Tags

ALL instrument cases must have a name tag, especially school owned horns that are checked out to students. Please see the band office to receive one.

### Eligibility

You must be at school, for the full day, before an event. **If you are 20 minutes late for first hour you are counted absent and will be ineligible.** Students should not leave school early on the day of an event without contacting a director first. Excused medical absences may be excused at the director's' discretion. You **MUST CONTACT** a director and explain the situation.

On performance weeks, if you are absent **more than two rehearsals** you will **not** be allowed to participate in that performance in any ensemble. Students ineligible due to absence will be allowed to attend most performances and support the band to earn points toward the performance grade. Excessive absence can result in a loss of playing eligibility at the director's' discretion.

### Tardies

Tardies are defined as: Student is not in the appropriate workplace, ready with all needed materials when bell rings. Consequences for tardies in this class align with the NCMS Tardy Policy.

### Hall Passes

Hall Passes will be issued to students only for rare and unique circumstances. Hall passes will not be issued for visits to the restroom, one's locker, etc. These things should be taken care of before class.

### Practicing

Practice all assignments. Students are required to practice assigned music on a regular basis to improve strength and reinforce skills learned in class. Students demonstrate what they practice at home during our rehearsals at school. "Don't practice until you get it right, practice until you can't get it wrong."

### Practice Records

Practice record assignments can be given out at the discretion of the director to check on how much students are practicing. The records are guides and should not be a limit to how much students practice. A minimum of 100 minutes per week is necessary to receive full credit.

## Conduct and Discipline Procedures

Discipline not governed in the student handbook will be handled on an individual basis.

Examples include;

Gum chewing

Food or soda in the band room

Failure to submit valid parental notes

Improper care of equipment

Persistent offences in lack of responsibility

Failure to follow classroom rules

## Band Classroom Expectations

1. Come to class prepared to play. Have needed materials and equipment.
2. Participate in a positive manner every day. Be ready to play when asked and pay attention when directions are being given. Don't talk. If there is a reason you can not play that day, bring a note from a parent to explain why or ask permission.
3. Be on time. Students are to be in their seat with materials one minute after the bell has sounded.
4. Do not bring gum, candy, food or drinks into the classroom. Water is permitted if it is in a sealable container.
5. Do not bring distracting things to class such as toys, electronic devices, or magazines.
6. Clean up after yourself. Throw away all trash and discarded reeds.
7. Keep your instrument ready to play. Do not disassemble and clean it during rehearsal
8. Interact with others in a positive way. Be helpful and always be considerate and respectful of other people.

## Cell Phones

School policy prohibits the use of cellphones at school during school hours. They are to be turned off and put away in class. Students are encouraged to use them to contact parents while they are on band trips to keep them informed of arrival times. Students are also encouraged to download a metronome and tuning app to assist them with practice at home.

## Grading

Playing tests - Can be recorded or performed in class depending on exercise being performed.

Practice Records

Classroom Participation

Equipment checks

Performance Participation - Students must be present for an entire concert to receive credit. Students can make up participation points for performance absences with a doctor/funeral note, or in unique circumstances, with approval from an administrator.

### Performance Attire

A music polo shirt will be needed as part of the performance attire for the NCMS Concert Band. Khakis, a belt, and dress shoes are needed to complete the uniform.

Seventh Grade Band should dress nice..dresses/skirts, dress pants and button down shirts. No t-shirts, tennis shoes, or athletic wear should be worn.

### Smart Music

Smart Music is a music computer program that allows students to practice with a full band at home and also hear and see their part being played separately. We will be choosing a lot of our performance music from selections that are in the Smart Music Library.

### Travel Etiquette

Take care of the bus. Pick up your trash and NEVER let your performance attire touch the bus floor. Keep it on the hanger if it isn't being worn and hang it on the window INSIDE the bus.

The buses will be locked after everything is unloaded. NO student is permitted to be on the buses unless accompanied by a DIRECTOR.

Do not change clothes on the bus unless instructed to do so, Only after the buses have been assigned "male" and "female" will you be allowed to change. Please change quickly as others would like to have their turn as well.

Portable stereos may ONLY be used with headphones unless specifically given permission by a director.

Clean up the area EVERYWHERE you go, regardless of if you created the mess. Remember to check your "footprint", as it is a reflection of our entire program. "Leave it better than you found it!"

NO public display of affection will be allowed in the band room or anywhere while you are in performance attire. **NO PDA other than hand holding** will be allowed at any NCMS sanctioned function. Remember, you are representing our district. Respect yourselves, each other and the program, and act responsibly and modestly.

All band members must ride the bus to an event, however, you may be signed out after a performance by your PARENT or GUARDIAN only. Exceptions to this procedure must be approved by an administrator in advance. If you are signed out, it is YOUR responsibility to have another band member take responsibility for your equipment.



## All District Band

The East Central All District Band is made up from band students throughout the East Central Missouri District that successfully completed the audition process and scored high enough to become members. Auditions begin at 4:30pm on October 23rd at Jefferson R7 High School. All NCMS band students will work on this music in class and are encouraged to audition. More information will be sent home as the date approaches. More information can also be found on <http://www.ec7mmea.org/>

## **Band Website - [www.northcountybands.com](http://www.northcountybands.com)**

For the most accurate, updated dates and all other information, please be familiar with our band website. We work very hard to make that information accessible to you.

## Remind

We will be using “Remind” as a one way source of communication to offer announcements from directors to students and parents. Please do not attempt to use this resource to contact directors or reply to announcements. If there is a question about an announcement, please feel free to email the director. For students and parents to receive these class announcements, either download and use the remind app or text the class code to 81010 to receive announcements via text forwarding. It is HIGHLY recommended to download the remind app instead of using the text forwarding if at all possible. Any issues we have had with this service have been through text forwarding.

Raider Regiment Marching Band: @8b8387

High School Symphonic Band: @aee92g

High School Concert Band: @4b46cg

High School Jazz Ensemble: @g8f8h

High School Jazz Lab: @ef4gc

8th Grade Concert Band: @eg84a

Middle School Jazz Band: @h3ebb2

7th Grade Band: @2e846g

7th Grade Woodwinds: @43kekc

7th Grade Brass: @2f2398

7th Grade Percussion: @d4ce9

6th Grade Band: @b46626

Students will be contacted via school email and should check it regularly for recent updates as well as individual class-related communication from directors.

## Charms

We are excited to be able to introduce this software into our band program that allows parents and students to have constant access to financial and other records. We strongly recommend that all parents not only have working access, but also make sure that you have an active email account listed in your student's account to receive program updates.

- Go to [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com)
- Place your mouse cursor over “**Enter/Login**”, then click on “**Parents/Students/Members**”
- Enter your school code “**northcountybands**” (It's the same as the website!)
- It will then ask you to enter your password.
  - Please be aware that your charms account will only have one password. Parents and students will have to share that information with each other.
  - If there are password issues, you can email a director for a password reset, which will reset your password to your charms ID number.
- On your home screen click “**Update info**”
- When arriving on this screen please update all fields on both sides of the screen
  - A couple of items that are VERY IMPORTANT
    - Our school email blocks charms email updates. It is recommended that students enter their personal email in their student info to receive charms email updates from the directors.
    - In the phone number fields, make sure if you enter a cell number, you enter it in the second field, “Cell” not under “Phone”. That general “Phone” category should be reserved for home phone numbers if you have one.
  - If you “turn on” the personal instrument option, that allows you to keep a record of your personally owned instrument information. If anything like theft ever happened, we would have a record of the serial number on hand for police reports and to send to local pawn shops.
  - Please fill out your birthdate with the accurate year.
- After filling out your personal information, click “**Add New Adult**” to add parent contact information. Please make sure their phone numbers are under the correct labels as well.
- After your personal info is complete, I would encourage you to check out your “**Financial Statement**”. If anyone has any trouble interpreting the content of your financial statement, contact a director for help.
- Charms also has a smartphone app for easy access of all account information.



## NCMS Band Calendar 2018-2019

Monday, August 27, 2018 Start Stonie's Meat Sticks Fundraiser

Friday, September 7, 2018 End Stonie's Meat Sticks Fundraiser

Week of September 17, 2018 Stonie's Meat Sticks Fundraiser Delivery

Friday, October 12, 2018 Concert Band performs with Raider Regiment at HS Home Football Game vs. Potosi – Students will practice at 7am at the high school and be transported by bus to middle school for first period. They will return that evening to perform pregame and to watch halftime.

Tuesday, October 23, 2018 Middle school all district concert band auditions. Many students should be auditioning for this. Students will bus to Jefferson R7 for auditions that take place throughout the evening.

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 Middle School Band Concert for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students – Arrive by 7:10 pm Concert Starts at 7:30.

Thursday, February 21, 2019 MAJHAA Concert Band Festival at Farmington Centene Center – Students will bus to the Centene Center during the day to rehearse and perform that evening. - All NCMS band students will participate. Students are expected to stay and watch other area bands perform.

Saturday, March 2, 2019 Valle St. Genevieve Middle School Music Festival for Concert Band and Solo/Ensembles. This is only for the NCMS Concert Band and students who signed up to play a solo or ensemble.

Friday, April 5, 2019 Middle School Jazz Band to perform at HS Band Spaghetti Dinner – Performance starts at 6pm in the high school commons. Only jazz band students will perform this evening but anyone is welcome to eat spaghetti. There is an entry fee if you are not performing.

Saturday, April 6, 2019 Middle School Jazz Band to perform at NC Jazz Festival. Times to be announced later. This is for jazz band students only. Anyone is welcome to watch bands throughout the day and the featured concert that evening.

Tuesday, April 30, 2019 Middle School Jazz Concert at HS - This is only for jazz band students. Anyone is welcome to come watch.

Saturday, April 27, 2019 Six Flags Music Festival - This is only for Concert Band students. There is a fee to pay for tickets and the entry into the music festival.

Saturday, May 11, 2019 NC Band Car Show/Craft Fair at the high school. NCMS Jazz Band will perform. Times TBA

Tuesday, May 14, 2019 Middle School Spring Band Concert for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Please remember that band students are required to be at performances as part of their grade, so please make plans early. These dates are also available on the band website [www.northcountybands.com](http://www.northcountybands.com). The band google calendar is always updated with any changes.

# North County Bands Percussion Required Materials

*Last edit 5/15/18*

*(prices are approximate and may vary depending on retailer)*

## **Middle School**

- Stick Bag (Any stick bag that securely closes and protects your sticks / mallets is acceptable)
  - Innovative Percussion Fundamental Series..... **\$15.75**
- Snare Sticks
  - Vic Firth SD1 General.....**\$12.00**
- Mallets
  - Innovative Percussion F 1.5 (Medium Marimba).....**\$25.00**
  - Innovative Percussion F 8.5 (Medium-Hard Rubber Marimba/Xylophone)..  
**\$19.00**
- Practice Pad
  - Vic Firth 12 inch STOCK Pad....**\$34.90**
- Bell Kits (Band program currently has these for check out for at home practice)
- Books
  - Rowloff - Snare Drummer's Toolbox....**\$15.00**
  - Rowloff - Mallet Player's Toolbox....**\$15.00**

**Approximate Total: \$136.65**

## **High School:**

(Upon arriving to high school, the following will be added to the items acquired in middle school.)

- Mallets
  - Innovative Percussion Fundamental Series F5.5 (Medium Rattan Vibes).....**\$27.70**
- Timpani Mallets
  - Innovative Percussion GT3 (Medium General).....**\$33.99**
- Books
  - Rowloff - The Rudimental Cookbook.....**\$15.00**

**Total: \$76.69**

Students are welcome and encouraged to explore other comparable mallets of high quality such as the Vic Firth brand. Students are also encouraged to expand their equipment collection beyond the required minimum as well as research other higher quality collections. These materials will be required at all levels by August 2018.

Please keep in mind that our wind instrument players spend hundreds, sometimes thousands of dollars to purchase their instrument and have frequent maintenance and accessory cost as well. Even with these costs, percussion is still by far the least expensive area of band.

Students need to have access to a metronome and earphones for practice. There are plenty of free metronome apps on smartphones. If you don't have smartphone access, the Korg MA-1 metronome is recommended.



## Raider Regiment Audition

Students and Parents,

Members will complete a playing audition to demonstrate performance proficiency at a 7th grade level. In addition to MSHSAA and NCHS eligibility standards, the following areas will be assessed at the discretion of our directors to determine performance eligibility:

- Attendance
- School discipline record
- Basic understanding of your instrument and the ability to play in time with a metronome
  - This will be assessed by a playing test with use of a metronome. This audition material has been taken directly from a "7th grade" band book. Playing assessments from the current school year may also be used for consideration.
  - There will not be any kind of audition that involves marching ability.
  - Percussionists will have another audition on the first day of percussion camp. At that point, the only way they would not be accepted as a part of the group is an instrument availability issue. We only have so many positions available between our drumline and front ensemble instruments.
- Physical fitness
  - We have no goals of turning the Raider Regiment into an athletic organization, but some level of physical fitness is necessary to participate in a competitive marching program.
  - We need to be able to have physical conditioning activities without worrying about the physical well being of our members that are not physically capable of such activities. Additionally, those who are unable to complete conditioning activities would not likely have the physical endurance to successfully march and play through a competitive show that could reach 10 minutes in length or a parade route in excess of a mile.
  - Students interested in marching are encouraged to try the first day of camp to see if they can safely complete the physical activity and conditioning that is typical of our marching program.

Our intention is not to remove the opportunity to play in band from anyone, but to prioritize the physical safety and music education of our students. High School Concert Band is open to all band students and is a great place to focus on improving individual instrumental playing ability. **I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE** all current 8th graders to consider entering High School Concert Band if you do not wish to march. Why not continue on and create music instead of enrolling in my music appreciation class and taking notes and writing papers to get your high school fine art credits?



## High School Jazz Bands Audition Instructions

### Part 1: Bb Blues

Wind Instruments	1st Chorus: Play Melody 2nd Chorus: Improvise
Piano, Guitar, Bass, Vibes	1st Chorus: Play Melody 2nd Chorus: Comp / Walk 3rd Chorus: Improvise
Drums	Be prepared to play up to 3 choruses of time while demonstrating the ability to comp and fill.

### Part 2: "The Aebersold Choice"

Play what you can successfully accomplish. You will create a better audition by playing an easier option cleanly with style than you will by playing a more difficult option poorly.

Option 1: (will be released by May)
Option 2: (will be released by May)
Option 3: You may choose your own audition piece that is more challenging, but IT MUST BE PRE-APPROVED by Mr. Carroll at least one day prior to your audition and you must be able to provide your own background track and a copy of the music you're playing.

Wind Instruments	1st Chorus: Play Melody 2nd Chorus: BONUS - Improvise (not required)
Piano, Guitar, Bass, and Vibes	1st Chorus: Play Melody 2nd Chorus: Comp / Walk 3rd Chorus: BONUS - Improvise (not required)
Drums	Be prepared to play up to 3 choruses of time while demonstrating the ability to comp and fill.

### Part 3: Drums Only

Be able to demonstrate a rock beat, swing, shuffle (swing), and funk. Any additional patterns from the Missouri All State Drum Set Patterns will be considered as BONUS.

**Note to rhythm section students:** As we are attempting to create some degree of rotational rhythm sections in the high school jazz bands, any attempt to audition on multiple rhythm section instruments is appreciated and will be reflected positively in the decision making process.

**Note to wind instrument players:** You may alter octaves in any case that you think better highlights your playing.